

Minutes of a Council Meeting of the Borough of Hillsdale held at 7:34 PM on Tuesday, June 3, 2015, in the Council Chamber, Borough of Hillsdale, Hillsdale, New Jersey.

The meeting was called to order by Council President Pizzella. Mayor Arnowitz led the Salute to the Flag.

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT:**

This is a meeting of the Hillsdale Borough Council on this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of June 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, Ruocco, and Council President Pizzella. Also in attendance were Mayor Arnowitz, Borough Attorney Madaio and Borough Clerk Witkowski.

**APPOINTMENTS:** *(tonight)*

*Mayor's appointment (with advice and consent of the Council)*

Council Member Chrisoula Looes  
Term Ending December 31, 2015

Hillsdale Library

Motion to approve by Council President Pizzella, second by Council Member Meyerson, and unanimously approved.

Mayor Arnowitz commented that the Borough Council has the right to have one of the Council Members sit on the Hillsdale Public Library Board of Trustees, and due to the situation with the elevator repair, as well as other concerned, Mayor Arnowitz thought it was advisable to appoint someone to represent the Borough Council on the Board.

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*Mayor's appointment*

Anthony Maalouf, Class I  
Term Ending December 31, 2015

Planning Board

Motion to approve by Council Member Meyerson, second by Council Member DeGise, and unanimously approved.

Mayor Arnowitz commented that, due to the situation with his health, he has not been able to attend many Planning Board meetings. Members of the Planning Board expressed concerns about not having a representative from the Borough Council at the meetings. Under Borough and State ordinances, Mayor Arnowitz may appoint someone to take his place at the meetings, and that person does not have to be a member of the Borough Council.

**OATH OF OFFICE:**

Council President Pizzella swore in Council Member Looes.

**RECOGNITION:** *(tonight)*

NARCAN life-saving:

Robert Francaviglia, Chief of Police

Sergeant Chris Donaldson; Officer Alex Kaplan; Officer Travis Woods

Chief Francaviglia noted that within the past month and a half, Hillsdale police officers saved the lives of two young adults from heroin overdoses. Chief Francaviglia pointed out that heroin addiction has become an epidemic in the United States. In New Jersey, heroin-related deaths have increased 160% since 2010, killing 750 people. With the implementation of NARCAN, which has been used in hospital emergency rooms all over the country, these victims of addiction have a chance of surviving. On May 23, 2015, at approximately 9:00 PM, the dispatcher at the Hillsdale Police Department received a call from a woman about her son being unresponsive. A patrol car went to the residence,

where the officers found the body of a 25-year-old male lying on the floor, lifeless. After conducting an assessment of the victim, they determined that he was suffering from a drug overdose. They quickly administered a dose of NARCAN, which brought the victim back to consciousness. Chief Francaviglia commended the quick and decisive actions taken by the three officers, which saved the life of the young man.

Council President Pizzella also commended the three officers on behalf of the residents of Hillsdale for their life-saving efforts. Council Member Meyerson added his thanks, and also said that it is incredible to watch the members of the Police Department do exactly what they are trained to do, and to be true heroes. He also pointed out that this is a cautionary tale, and that this was the second time in a month that the Hillsdale Police Department had to respond to this type of call. It should make all Hillsdale residents wonder what can be done to stop this kind of thing from happening again. Council Member Looes added her thanks, and Mayor Arnowitz commented that it is mind-boggling to him that there is someone out there walking around because of the efforts of the three police officers. He noted that he was the one who appointed all three of the officers to the Police Department. Mayor Arnowitz stated that it is a testament to Chief Francaviglia for putting the NARCAN program together. He mentioned that not all municipalities are implementing this program. Although it makes the police officers' belts heavy, two people are still alive because of its use.

Council Member DeRosa pointed out that, if these three officers do nothing else in their lives, they can still say that they saved a life, which is more than most other people can say.

Council Member Ruocco stated that he hopes that the person who was saved appreciates that, and takes the right turn in his life.

#### **PRESENTATION:**

Sign ordinance: Darlene Green/Tracy Jeffery (*tentative August meeting*)

#### **PROCLAMATIONS:**

Council President Pizzella asked if the other Council Members would accommodate his request to recognize some Hillsdale Eagle Scouts, which Mayor Arnowitz and the other Council Members agreed to do.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** *for June 9, 2015*

Special Meeting March 23, 2015; Work Session Meeting May 5, 2015; Regular Meeting May 12, 2015; Closed Session May 5, 2015, and May 12, 2015

Council Member Ruocco asked if the minutes could be made available to the Council Members at least 48 hours prior to approval. The Borough Administrator replied that she will try her best.

#### **PROFESSIONALS REPORTS/MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

*(The following correspondence on file in Borough Clerks Office)*

Borough Engineer – dated May 26, 2015

Greg Polyniak of Neglia and Associates presented the Engineer's Report. The first item relates to Centennial Field, and Mr. Polyniak stated that his office will be having a meeting tomorrow morning with the DPW Superintendent to review the action list of items that are still outstanding with respect to the field. This will enable the final tasks to be accomplished, and bring the Borough into compliance to the meetings that have occurred with the NJDEP.

The next item relates to the building methane sensors. Today, shop drawings were received for the sensors and the equipment from the contractor. Within four weeks, the contractor will receive equipment, and then construction will start. The field sensors should be installed by late June, with the work completed by mid-July. Mayor Arnowitz asked Mr. Polyniak to ensure that someone from the Borough staff understands the operations of the sensors, so that if an alarm should sound, s/he can take action. Mr. Polyniak pointed out that the solicitation has been set up to include a training session for whomever would like to attend, whether that be personnel from the DPW, they Borough Council, or any other municipal staff who wish to attend. The training session is required to be provided. Council President Pizzella mentioned that one member from each sports association that uses the fields should be required to attend the training session, to which Mr. Polyniak agreed. He said the notification will be provided about the training session in advance, and his firm will work with each of the associations to ensure that a member from each one will be present at the meeting.

With respect to the field methane sensors, Mr. Polyniak commented that an analysis has been done by the contractor for the building methane sensors, determined that three of the wires with respect to the

sensors need to be replaced, because they are not working, and the connection from the computer to the box within each sensor. A recommendation letter was issued today which includes the repair of those wires, along with the adjusting the system and addressing new sensors within the field. A recommendation in the amount of \$34,300 to address and repair the field sensor system has been provided, which is a compliance item with respect to DEP. It is recommended that the Borough Council consider awarding the contract at the next meeting, if possible, provided everything is in order according to reviews by the Borough Attorney and CFO.

Regarding the train station, the County held a meeting on May 26, at which they were reviewing the \$100,000 matching grant to address the historic preservation grant. The project will now be considered by the Bergen County Board of Chosen Freeholders, and will be considered at a future meeting to be held shortly.

The next item on the list relates to the DOT discretionary aid. An email was forwarded to the Borough Administrator, as well as to Neglia Associates, calling for projects for discretionary aid funds. If the Borough Council would like to submit something, Mr. Polyniak's firm would be glad to do so. A roadway that could potentially be recommended to be Hillsdale Avenue, because it is a connecting roadway between two separate County roadways (Kinderkamack Road and Cedar Lane); and its services the parks that area, with sidewalks and pedestrian paths in that area, which will give the project a higher score when the DOT reviews the project.

Mayor Arnowitz asked if the sidewalk from Cedar Lane to Beechwood Park was ever completed. Council Member Looes stated that she does not believe there is a sidewalk there, although an application was made to install one. Mayor Arnowitz noted that that has been an ongoing discussion for years. Mr. Polyniak stated that if the Borough Council wanted to include that as part of the discretionary grant, which he would be happy to do. Council Member Looes recalled that the discussion about that sidewalk was part of the "Safe Routes to School" program, and the funds were not received. Mr. Polyniak noted that the Borough can make a second application for the funds, as part of the discretionary grant. In fact, because his firm had already prepared such a grant, it would be almost the same as re-submitting that grant. Council Member Looes asked when was the last time that area was paved. Mr. Polyniak estimated that it had been at least 10 years. Council President Pizzella asked if anyone objected to having Mr. Polyniak pursue that grant. Mr. Polyniak added that the grant would also address any paving issues between those two roads, where necessary. Council Member Ruocco asked if it were a matching grant? Mr. Polyniak responded that it is a 100% funded grant, based on the amount of money that is received.

Another email received by the Borough Administrator and Mr. Polyniak's office from the County relating to the Bergen County Open Space issue included a request for projects. Applications are due September 3, 2015, which means that if the Borough Council wishes to submit a project, project selection would have to move forward quickly in order to allow for a Public Hearing at the August meeting, which would have to be noticed 15 days prior to that meeting. Therefore, any project would have to be elected by the Borough Council at one of the July meetings in order to have it prepared in time. Mr. Polyniak stated that two of the projects his firm would recommend include any improvements to Centennial Field; as well as a plan that was originally prepared 1-2 years ago for an adult playground at Stonybrook Park that would qualify for this program. Council Member Meyerson asked if those are matching grants, and Mr. Polyniak confirmed that they are 50/50 matching grants. Council Member Ruocco recalled that some time ago, Mr. Polyniak reviewed the idea for the adult playground, but Council Member Ruocco could not recall if all of the costs were determined. Mr. Polyniak stated that his firm did estimate all costs, which would be approximately \$50,000. Council Member Meyerson asked if there is any way to match it with another grant, which Mr. Polyniak said is not possible. Council President Pizzella asked for verification that this would be in addition to the matching grant for which the Borough has already applied, and will more than likely get, regarding the train station. Mr. Polyniak confirmed this, adding that this particular grant is for award in 2016. At the same time, the Borough could submit another application for a historic preservation grant, if it was decided that additional improvements are needed at the train station. A land acquisition grant, similar to what was done at Tandy Woods, could also be applied for. Council Member Looes asked what is the timeline. Mr. Polyniak noted that the email was received this past Friday. Applications must be submitted by September 3. Prior to submission of the application, a Public Hearing is required on the project. Because the Borough Council has only one August meeting scheduled, the Public Hearing would have to be held at that meeting, which requires notice to be published of that hearing a minimum of 15 days prior to the meeting, which would be some time in the middle of July. That means that the Borough Council would have to select a project by the July meetings. Council President Pizzella asked if there is time to allow the Hillsdale Open Space Committee, consisting of Council President Pizzella, Council Member Looes, and Council Member DeGise, to discuss the possibilities

and come up with a recommendation. Mr. Polyniak believes there would be enough time to allow for that. Council Member Looes mentioned that over the past couple of years, the Board of Health has wanted to take on a project, and she would like for the Open Space Committee to discuss it, and possibly include Barbara DeCaro, President of the Board of Health, in the discussions to determine what their needs are with respect to the adult playground, which is actually to be more of a fitness area for anyone who walks for exercise. She suggested that the Open Space Committee should meet in the next two weeks with Ms. DeCaro to come up with several projects that could be presented to the Borough Council for consideration. Council Member Ruocco recalled that the adult playground has been discussed for quite some time. Mr. Polyniak noted that design would include any permits that need to be acquired, as well as be compliant with all NJDEP regulations. There would still be a field, which would be located adjacent to the asphalt path that connects Meadowbrook School to the swim club parking lot. Council President Pizzella asked Ms. Witkowski to keep this in Old Business until recommendation is made.

Mr. Madaio asked a question with respect to 271 Wierimus Road. He noted that a title search needs to be done on that property, and Mr. Polyniak explained that his firm reviewed the location based on a conversation with Ms. Witkowski and the DPW Superintendent relating to a drainage pipe that was failing and beginning to collapse in that vicinity. On the tax maps, the location of the pipe is illustrated within the easement, and before any monies are expended, Mr. Polyniak's firm wanted to determine who is responsible for the pipe. Mr. Madaio asked if the Planning Board has the records on that subdivision, and Mr. Polyniak explained that the information might be found in those records, but could also be filed with the deeds. Council Member Meyerson pointed out that they could also be in the developers' agreement. Mr. Polyniak explained that the pipe discharges onto Wierimus Road, going through the farm property.

Council Member Ruocco asked about the PSE&G Energy Strong issue, in which Mr. Polyniak mentioned that PSE&G will be doing work on Sundays, with approved outages from September-December 31, 2015. Council Member Ruocco asked if it is known where those outages will be, and Mr. Polyniak responded that there will be a secondary meeting held to discuss that further. It was included in his report for informational purposes. It will occur by the Ricciardi Paint store on Hillsdale Avenue, on the side street where the parking lot is. There will be no excavation, and workers will be working on the area exterior to the roadway pavement section. They will be pulling conduit wire through the manholes. Council Member Ruocco mentioned that he heard concerns from residents regarding the work done in Westwood, which resulted in the roads being very uneven. He asked if that is a temporary situation that will also be experienced in Hillsdale. Mr. Polyniak explained that it is a temporary situation, and a meeting was held today at Borough Hall in which PSE&G presented a paving program that provides for milling and paving one-half width of all roadways where they have excavated the trenches.

Ambulance Corps – no report

Construction Department – no report

DPW – Council President Pizzella thanked Mr. Russell and the DPW for assisting the Kids for Earth initiative. They planted a garden at the Public Library. At the end of the summer, they will be hosting a harvest event, to which they Mayor and Council will be invited.

Fire Department – no report

Board of Health – Council President Pizzella congratulated Barbara DeCaro for 25 years of service to the Borough of Hillsdale.

Hillsdale Public Library – no report

Police Department – May 27, 2015

Chief Francaviglia presented the report, starting with traffic-related issues. During the month of May, there were 90 dispatch shifts, all of which were covered by non-sworn personnel, except for four hours, for which overtime had to be paid. There were 399 motor vehicle stops, with 162 summonses issued. The Traffic Bureau conducted a pedestrian education campaign at two locations: Broadway/Park Avenue; and Hillsdale Avenue/Magnolia Avenue. Motorists were given flyers laws dealing with failure to stop for pedestrians in the crosswalks. The next enforcement detail will be on jaywalking in the downtown area, which seems to have become a big issue. The Traffic Bureau also conducted two DDL education campaigns in conjunction with the anniversary of Kylie's Law. Motorists were given flyers explaining the regulations regarding graduated driver's licenses. Details were conducted at Pascack Valley High School and Stonybrook Swim Club. Most of the flyers were given to drivers

under the age of 21. The Police Department also assisted Meadowbrook and Smith Schools with evacuation drills, which went smoothly. Everyone was evacuated within seven minutes. School Resource Officer Adam Hampton organized a seminar on traffic stops for the high school students during the "Pascack Period". The high school students volunteered to do this, which was not part of the curriculum, and it taught them what traffic stops are about. The PBA funded a senior citizens' luncheon for which Chief Francaviglia thanked the PBA. Members of the Police Department attended the luncheon, which they thought was well received. The Police Department also continues to conduct walkthroughs of all the schools on a daily basis, which is appreciated by school administrators. On June 12, 2015, at approximately 9:00 AM, the Special Olympics torch run will be coming to Hillsdale. Officer Sayers has been organizing this event for the Department, and he has been getting students from George White School involved in the event to support the runners. Chief Francaviglia invited everyone to come out for this event. He also invited everyone to attend the next "Coffee with a Cop" event to be held on Saturday, June 6, from 10:00 AM-1:00 PM, by Starbucks. Mayor Arnowitz asked if the Special Olympics event could be put in the newsletter, which Chief Francaviglia agreed to do.

Council President Pizzella said he was approached by a group of residents who live on Mary Street about a sign that used to be by Centennial Field indicating where the entrance to the field is, and which is no longer there. When people Google the location of Centennial Field, they are directed to go down Mary Street, which is incorrect, and they make k-turns and speed back up Mary Street, because they are usually late for their games. The resident asked if the Police Department can try to determine where the sign went, and if something can be done to replace it and divert people to the appropriate entrance. The residents noted that there was a sign on Kinderkamack Road, which is also no longer there. Mayor Arnowitz pointed out that there should be a sign near St. Nicholas Avenue. Chief Francaviglia said he would look into it. Finally, Chief Francaviglia commended his officers for their efforts during the flooding events this past weekend.

Recreation/Stonybrook – no report

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Council Member DeGise: Council Member DeGise commented that the Board of Fire Officers received two ordinances from the Borough Council for review by the Board, and they had two comments to make about the ordinances. One was that the Knox boxes/lockdown boxes language is acceptable, because it is a fairly standard. Regarding the hydrant ordinance, the Fire Department would like the ordinance to be in the commercial areas, so that the burden is not placed on the residential areas. The Board of Fire Officers and Fire Department will continue their online campaign for education on digging out hydrants. Mr. Madaio asked if they meant commercial zones, and Council Member DeGise responded that they are referring to industrial/commercial zones, or non-residential zones.

Council Member DeRosa: Council Member DeRosa thanked the Recreation Commission for helping with the Memorial Day parade. He also thanked the DPW for the parade preparations, as well as for installing the five plaques.

Regarding Stonybrook Swim Club, the current membership is at \$610,000 against the goal of \$740,000, which is still short. It is hoped that once schools close, memberships might increase. Council Member Meyerson asked if there was a comparison against this time last year, and Council Member DeRosa said he did not have that information with him. Council Member Looes noted that there was a discrepancy with the dates for the open house; two different dates were published.

Council Member Looes: Council Member Looes mentioned that at the Board of Health meeting last night, Barbara DeCaro was honored for her 25 years of service to the Borough. The Borough Council will be honoring her at the June 9 meeting. Council Member Looes pointed out that Ms. DeCaro is a volunteer, not an employee, and Council Member Looes has learned a lot from her. Regarding insurance, Council Member Looes attended the JIF meeting. The Borough just received a \$2,000 recognition award that was announced at the JIF meeting in January.

Council Member Meyerson: Council Member Meyerson stated that the Shared Services committee recently met with Woodcliff Lake, however, most of the discussion pertaining to negotiations with them, which is on the agenda for the Closed Session meeting tonight. Mayor Arnowitz asked about Washington Township, and Council Member Meyerson responded that there has been no meeting with them yet. Council Member Meyerson noted that attempts to do a tri-borough court with Westwood and River Vale, and Westwood decided not to proceed with that, after which time River Vale also decided that they did not want to proceed. Mayor Arnowitz was approached by representatives from Washington Township, and Ms. Witkowski stated that she spoke to their Mayor and Borough

Administrator. Council Member Meyerson pointed out that two towns joining their courts would result in very minor savings; unless three towns can join, and there is space to accommodate such a court, it is not worthwhile to share these services. However, Westwood indicated that they do not have storage space for the records, which must be stored on-site. Another possible site for the tri-court would be Montvale, where there is a brand-new building that has ample space, although they do have problems with parking. The court seems to be the obvious place to have a Shared Services agreement, because there are 1-2 full-time workers, and everyone else works on a part-time basis. However, the logistics make it more complicated, and the court itself is not that expensive, so the savings that would be realized will not be that great. Council President Pizzella asked if Park Ridge shares its court, and Council Member Meyerson responded that Park Ridge, Woodcliff Lake, and Montvale share their courts. Council Member Meyerson noted that Park Ridge and Woodcliff Lake are half the size of Hillsdale. Hillsdale and River Vale have similar populations, while Westwood has more residents. Council President Pizzella asked if there be any opportunity to share that service with a municipality outside of this area, or is it necessary that the sharing communities be contiguous. Council Member Meyerson answered that there is no such requirement, but he could not imagine sharing such a service with non-contiguous communities, if only for the reason that the Police Department personnel must travel back and forth to testify. In addition, police testimony must be arranged in advance. Council Member Ruocco asked if there is a chance that Hillsdale could be a fourth member of the group of three towns sharing a court system. Council Member Meyerson responded that Hillsdale was turned down for that. Council Member Meyerson believes it was due to the fact that the only tri-court system in this area is the Park Ridge/Woodcliff Lake/Montvale group, and they have had many parking issues due to the Public Library, which shares a parking lot. He is also not sure that the savings they claim are true, because the former court buildings are not torn down, and they must be heated and cooled, as well as having electricity and plumbing, etc., which are expenses. Council Member Meyerson believes that regional courts, for many reasons, are better for all involved, and better serve the public.

Council Member Ruocco: Council Member Ruocco commented that the Finance Committee met on June 2, and they decided to go for a reallocation of items in the capital budget and the DPW equipment to address what they found was an inability to debt-finance used equipment. This will result in Hillsdale getting one less piece of equipment in the 2015 budget, but getting two new pieces while **still** staying within the overall debt limit authorized in the 2015 capital budget. The second item was with respect to the lightning detectors, in which the committee members approved a solution that will address the current dysfunctionality that has been experienced that will cost approximately \$1,200 less annually than what is currently being paid to the company that administers system. On other financial matters, the Public Library received approximately \$41,000 owed to it by the municipality, which has allowed them to proceed with repair of the elevator. They are awaiting the rest of the reimbursement from the Borough, once the debt financing authorized in the capital budget moves forward.

The Office of Emergency Management informed Council Member Ruocco that during the recent storm, approximately 4.5 inches of rain fell in approximately 30 minutes, causing numerous roads to flood. The brook rose quickly, but never reached flood stage. The primary power line came down on Hillsdale Avenue near St. John's Academy, causing a fire that damaged the roadway. The Police and Fire Departments, as well as the OEM and DPW staff, handled the road closures and put out the fire once the power was turned off. Council Member Ruocco commended all four of those groups for their efforts. Finally, the OEM staff is finalizing the generator project paperwork, but they need a copy of the resolution that was passed.

Regarding the senior citizens, the Bergen County Division of Community Transportation is holding an annual public hearing on Thursday, June 18, at 9:00 AM at One Bergen County Plaza in Hackensack. The topic will be transportation funding for senior citizens and persons with disabilities. Anyone can testify at the hearing. Bergen County is applying for a \$1.4 million grant from New Jersey Transit. The senior lunch program continues, with the next luncheon to be held on Tuesday, June 9, at Stonybrook Swim Club, at 11:30 AM. There is also a senior breakfast scheduled at George White School on June 12 from 9:00 AM-10:30 AM, sponsored by the Hillsdale Education Association, and the George White Student Council. Bus transportation will be available to George White School from Stonybrook Swim Club beginning at 8:45 AM. If anyone wants anymore details, s/he should contact Marie Hanlon.

Council President Pizzella: Council President Pizzella reported that the Business Affairs/Economic Growth & Public Relations Committee met for the first time; they were waiting for the budget to pass, and they will now proceed with assessing economic growth in Hillsdale. A proposal was received for an opportunity at the pool, as did the Pool Commission. Council President Pizzella received correspondence from the Chairperson of the Pool Commission, and they will be reviewing that information with Mr. Benecke.

The Environmental Commission will be meeting with Mr. Polyniak and the Board of Education to

discuss replacement of the trees at the tennis courts.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Status of Sports Association Agreements

Council Member DeRosa commented that the Recreation Commission has been asked to get the sports associations to agree to the agreement. However, there is one issue that needs to be addressed by the Borough Council. The agreement is fairly standard, and the sports associations acknowledge the Borough as the municipal government, while the Borough acknowledges the sports associations as the arms of the individual sports. The agreement includes appropriate language regarding criminal background checks, and three other concerns. One of those issues is that the association must prove that it is a non-profit organization. Another is that the association pays for its own insurance or will reimburse the Borough for insurance. It also provides that the association shall, at the Borough's option, pay the costs associated with all public utilities utilized at Borough facilities in connection with the association's activities. That could include field lighting. Council Member Meyerson asked if Council Member DeRosa was presenting this, and Council Member DeRosa explained that there needs to be agreement on this item before it can be presented. Council Member Meyerson guessed that the associations have not yet seen these provisions. Council President Pizzella asked if this is something that should be discussed in Closed Session, because it is an agreement. Mr. Madaio stated that because it is simply a working draft, it does not need to be discussed in Closed Session. He added that in the current draft version, there was this fundamental question that kept arising, and it requires input all of the Council Members. Mr. Madaio stated that Council Member DeRosa is trying to get a consensus on the issue. Council Member DeRosa commented that if the Council Members are in agreement on this matter, it would streamline the process and getting the agreement finalized. Council Member DeRosa stated that it comes down to a fundamental philosophical question about government responsibility, and what are the government's responsibilities when it comes to young people in Hillsdale. He believes that it is the role of government to provide facilities, as well as lighting for those facilities, because of the intrinsic benefits attributed to keeping children involved, and teaching life lessons for sports. The sports associations have grown over the years, and now there is competition for field. Lights allow the Borough to expand that availability. Other municipalities have this issue as well, Mr. Madaio was able to share the Borough of Vineland Recreation bylaws that all parks and athletic fields are available without charge to any participating Vineland recreation-sanctioned or sponsored league. Any event that is not sanctioned would be charged a per hour usage for the fields or parks. Council Member DeRosa noted that Hillsdale residents are paying taxes and he does not think it would be fair to charge them again for use of the lighting. He proposed taking a straw poll to get a consensus about removing the clause from the agreement. In addition, Council Member DeRosa asked the other Council Members to keep in mind that the 2014 and 2015 budgets did not require any payment by the sports associations.

Mayor Arnowitz pointed out that in 2013 and 2014, a vote was taken by the Borough Council, and the majority of the Council Members voted against making the sports associations pay any fee for lighting. Council Member Meyerson noted that this issue has arisen in each of his three years on the Borough Council. At one point, Ms. Hughes was requested to go back to the sports associations and request payment from them, causing the head of the soccer association to come to a Borough Council meeting and state that the soccer program would be shut down if they had to pay, because they could not afford to add those fees and therefore would not be able to play at night. Council Member Meyerson pointed out that there is a shortage of fields in Hillsdale, and when this town was built and developed, the predominant sport was baseball. Now, many other sports have been added to that, and many adjustments have been made throughout Hillsdale to try to accommodate the increased sports. It has become necessary to find ways to allow for multiple usage of the fields. As Council Member DeRosa stated, the fields and sports are part of the fabric of Hillsdale, and Council Member Meyerson supports the idea that lights should be paid for through taxes, and there should be a provision in the agreement regarding field lighting. However, there must also be a sunset clause in the agreement, so that if necessary, it can be changed in the future. The agreement, either partially or it is entirety, should be subject to renewal every few years so that the Borough Council has an opportunity to review it while also reviewing the municipal budget to see what can and cannot be accommodated. For Council Member Meyerson wants the provision removed from the agreement. He pointed out that there is no predictability, so no one knows what will be charged from year-to-year. Mayor Arnowitz added that by bringing this up several years ago, the cost of lighting has decreased, due to the fact that the lights are now turned off when they are not used, resulting in monetary savings. Council Member Meyerson commented that he feels differently about out-of-town groups that use the fields, or when they are used for private events. In such situations, there should be charges to cover the costs. However, he believes that the taxpayers of Hillsdale should not bear the costs when their own children, or they themselves, use Hillsdale facilities. Council Member DeRosa suggested that the Recreation Commission make some additions about charges for outside organizations. Mayor Arnowitz pointed out that outside organizations might include Hillsdale residents as there will members, so that also became problematic. Council Member Looes noted that the Recreation Commission acknowledged that

some of the local groups or teams consist of Hillsdale residents, as well as non-residents. For example, the lacrosse program includes children from all four towns, and the Arsenal soccer program includes children from different towns. The percentage of participants who are from Hillsdale was used to determine how much to charge outside organizations for use of the field facilities. Council Member Meyerson stated that the Recreation Commission must be relied upon for a reasonable approach to that. Council Member Looes agreed that there is an obligation of the Borough to its residents, who pay taxes to support these things, to provide these services and facilities to children and adults who live in Hillsdale. By offering and having recreational activities, Hillsdale gains as a municipality and it is the Borough's responsibility to provide such activities and venues for those activities. In addition, some of the fields are more expensive to light than others, and that burden should not be borne by the organizations using them.

Council President Pizzella started working on these agreements several years ago, and he thinks it is a good idea to implement them. They are essential to the associations, because they protect Hillsdale, as well as protecting the various sports associations. He asked if the insurance includes coverage on the Director and Officers of each association. Council Member Looes said that it does not include such coverage; according to the JIF, if the organization wants to get D & O coverage, it must do so on its own. Some of the organizations do have this insurance, for which they pay their own premium. It generally costs under \$1,000 per year to add D & O to the insurance policy. The D & O coverage is not offered under the JIF, but is a secondary insurance policy. Each association provides a list of its members to the Recreation Director, who forwards that number to the insurance broker. The premium is based upon the number of participants, as well as what events are included. With secondary coverage, if a child gets hurt while participating in the program, the primary insurance covers the injury up to the limit stated in the policy. The secondary (D & O) insurance covers anything not covered under the primary policy, but there is a deductible. Council President Pizzella asked if any of this is addressed in the agreement presented by Council Member DeRosa. Council Member DeRosa responded that it is not addressed. Council President Pizzella agreed with Council Member Looes about the difference in lighting at certain fields; there are significant discrepancies in the lighting bills for the various fields. Council Member Looes noted that that is due to the way the fields were built. She also mentioned the standby fees, which mean that even if no lights are turned on at a given field, the Borough pays approximately \$1,500 per month to cover the necessary voltage for the lights, so that it is available when it is needed. There is a standby fee that is paid for Centennial Field. There was a study done several years ago about the type of light bulbs used for the field lights, which is part of the reason why the fees are higher for Centennial Field. On the other hand, the costs for Beechwood Park are minimal, because it is smaller and uses a different type of light. Council President Pizzella also asked about the outside organizations, non-resident use of the fields and facilities, because he believes that there is language in the existing ordinance providing that any outside group or individual who wishes to use Hillsdale fields and/or facilities must make an application with the Recreation Department, and they pay a different price. Finally, Council President Pizzella stated that he agrees with everyone who has spoken that having a good recreation program and having nice fields makes Hillsdale a better place, while it also increases property values and brings people into Hillsdale. It is also a service, like the Fire Department and Ambulance Corps, and taxpayers should not face additional charges for such services.

Council Member Ruocco stated that he agrees with Council President Pizzella that the fields and facilities are service for residents of Hillsdale. However, he wished there were some way to come to an agreement in which the Borough is held responsible for the largest percentage of costs, and the user groups could pay a small percentage, such as 10%, to help defray the costs for lighting and insurance. Councilman Ruocco admitted that he does not know where to draw the line as far as the percentage is concerned. He completely agrees with the fact that Hillsdale should pay for the bulk of the expenses, for the same reasons stated by Council President Pizzella. It gives the users a stake in the game, while at the same time giving the Borough a bargaining tool in the future.

Council Member Meyerson pointed out that when children or adults sign up to play baseball, softball, etc., they pay a fee to that sports association in order to participate, which is not small. The Borough does not pay for people to participate in the various sports offered; the Borough provides facilities for those sports. The fields are part of the facilities that the Borough provides, adding to the overall experience of living in Hillsdale. That is where Council Member Meyerson believes the line is drawn. Hillsdale does not provide uniforms, equipment, staffing, etc. for the various sports, but it does provide venues. He noted that the senior citizens do not pay a fee for facility use when they attend the senior citizens' lunches, nor are people who attend meetings at Borough Hall asked to pay a fee to use the facility. If there were more fields available in Hillsdale, the solution might be to schedule day games. However, because there are not enough fields in Hillsdale, many teams are forced to play at night, and should not be penalized for that.

Council President Pizzella agreed that Hillsdale residents should not be charged for using those fields. He noted that the sports associations will be paying for insurance, which they previously had not been required to do. When Council President Pizzella was working on the agreements, he requested that each

association give him a copy of a typical budget from any given season, and he recalled that the Baseball budget was approximately \$70,000 to run the program, which is something that the Borough could not afford to do.

The result of the straw poll regarding charging fees for the lights was unanimously in favor of not charging fees.

2. PSE&G Vacation Knickerbocker Avenue

This was already discussed. This will stay in Old Business until at least the July 7 meeting, when there will be a presentation made about what is happening there. Ms. Witkowski confirmed the presentation.

3. Update on Donation of Property, 46 Beechwood Drive, Gassib/Phase I Environmental Assessment  
Mr. Madaio asked the other attorney to prepare the transfer documents. He noticed that there was a correspondence from the Borough Engineer dated April 24, 2015, when the phase 1 assessment was going to bid. However, Mr. Madaio thought that after the last meeting, the Borough Council did not want to move forward with that simply wanted to take title in the regular course of business.

4. Bergen County Freeholder Maura DeNicola Request to Present Access for All  
Ms. Witkowski called Ms. DeNicola's office last week and spoke to her assistant, who has not yet gotten back to Ms. Witkowski.

5. Council Member Ruocco – Tabling Floodplain Assistance

Council Member Ruocco reminded everyone that this discussion was tabled at the last Borough Council. It involves a declaration of assistance for technical assistance for the floodplain assistance plan. If Hillsdale were chosen to receive that technical assistance, the plan would be developed for free under the guidance of the Land Conservancy of New Jersey and Rutgers University. It would also include the development of conceptual design plans to restore or conserve the natural functions of floodplain once the structures are removed over a period of time. Councilman Ruocco stated that the deadline to declare that interest was May 29, 2015, but it has been extended to June 9, 2015, with an expectation decision would be made by them within seven days of that date. Preference will be given to towns that have severe repetitive flood properties, and Hillsdale is one of those. Council Member Ruocco spoke to Adam Strobel, Director of the Bergen County Division of Open Space, who confirmed that there is no obligation to proceed beyond that point if Hillsdale were to be selected as one of the five municipalities to receive this assistance. There is no obligation to apply for any grant. The plan is merely a tool for the Borough to assess and discuss the issues that might be involved. Based on the extension of the deadline, Council Member Ruocco made a motion to instruct the Borough Administrator to submit a declaration of interest. Council President Pizzella seconded the motion. Mayor Arnowitz wanted to know if this needed to be on the agenda to be discussed at every meeting, with a vote to be taken. Council Member Ruocco asked why Mayor Arnowitz was asking the question. Mayor Arnowitz responded that this was voted on last month, after a discussion the month before. Council President Pizzella asked if the motion was to un-table the discussion, and Mr. Madaio explained that the proper motion was to remove the matter from prior tabling to consider the matter. If the matter is now active, there has been a motion and second to take action. Council Member DeGise suggested that before any vote is taken on that motion, there should be a motion to un-table the matter. Council Member DeRosa moved that the matter be un-table, Council President Pizzella seconded the motion. Council Member Meyerson clarified that a yes vote would mean that the voter supports the idea of un-tabling to discuss the issue, while a no vote would leave the matter on the table for future discussion, or inactive.

Roll Call Vote

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

Nays: Council Members DeGise, Looes, Meyerson, and Mayor Arnowitz

The matter remains tabled.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**DISCUSSION:**

1. Floodplain Manager – Model Job Description/Borough Ordinance

Ms. Witkowski noted that this was something that was requested to be put back on the agenda for discussion. Ms. Witkowski provided the Borough Council with a model job description from the JIF, and is something that the insurance company has asked for. She also provided the language in the current ordinance, stating that the Construction Official is mentioned in the ordinance as the Floodplain Manager. In addition, Ms. Witkowski provided copies of a presentation made by Mr. Polyniak last year, explaining what is involved, and what the possible cost would be from the engineering firm. It seems like this direction in which the Council Members wish to go, but in her discussion with other municipalities last

year, Ms. Witkowski could not get the name of a specific individual or firm to do this job. Ms. Witkowski also mentioned it to Meredith Kates of the Environmental Committee, to see if any member would be interested in being involved with this, but there has been no further discussion. Council President Pizzella asked if the individual who is currently doing this job is comfortable doing it, and Ms. Witkowski explained that s/he does not, because s/he does not believe that s/he has the proper training or salary to do so. Council President Pizzella stated that the Council Members need to make a decision about this, because he recalled a specific gentleman who came to a Borough Council meeting representing a homeowner, who needed to have a Floodplain Manager sign off on one of the necessary documents for title work. Each town is required by law to have a Floodplain Manager. Council Member DeGise asked if the Borough Engineer could do the job. Mr. Polyniak stated that his firm is named by several municipalities as their Floodplain Manager, but most municipalities have their ordinances set for the correct person to handle the work. This is because a lot of the work entails filing documents and reviewing plans with respect to every building permit pulled and every site plan application filed. That person should have intimate knowledge of all those filings. Neglia and Associates would have to spend more time in the Building Department in order to address and be able to fill the position, and that is why it is typically held by the Construction Code Official. Council Member Ruocco noted that if Neglia and Associates were to take on that job, there would be an additional charge of \$6,000 per year, which Mr. Polyniak noted is due to the amount of time that the individual would have to spend at Borough Hall in order to go through all of the records and documents.

Mayor Arnowitz commented that since he has been on the Borough Council, there was only one applicant. There was a person who served in that capacity on an as needed basis. Mr. Polyniak noted that the job entails more than just reviewing documents. Mayor Arnowitz asked if it is possible to charge homeowners on an individual basis, and bring in an outside person to serve as the Floodplain Manager whenever needed. Council President Pizzella suggested that this discussion be tabled, and Ms. Witkowski could research whether these services could be charged on an individual basis, and come up with a recommendation about how to proceed. Mr. Polyniak noted that there are other activities involved with the job, such as being present during the storm events and other issues in which OEM might be involved. There is a substantial amount of requirements that have to be addressed by the Floodplain Manager. Council Member Meyerson asked if a member of the OEM could do it, which Mr. Polyniak confirmed. Council Member Looes suggested that the requirements be reviewed, and determine who can fulfill them from among current Hillsdale personnel.

## 2. PSE&G Energy Strong Road Restoration/Paving

This was discussed previously. Council President Pizzella asked what is the status regarding paving entire streets. Mr. Polyniak stated that his understanding is that, with respect to the ordinance passed by the Borough, the permits were pulled prior to the ordinance being passed.

### **BUDGET:**

1. Chapter 159 Resolution, JIF Safety Committee Award (\$2,000)

2. Neglia Engineering Electronic Message Dated May 19, 2015 – 271 Wierimus Road Drainage Issues

Council Member DeGise asked if there was a cost estimate for this. Mr. Polyniak responded that Mr. Madaio would be acquiring a title report to determine whose responsibility the line is. Subsequent to that determination, if it is the municipality's responsibility, the second step would be to clean the line to do identify the location of the failures so that it can be determined which pipes need to be addressed. At that time, when the video is reviewed, Neglia and Associates will provide a cost analysis.

3. Letter Dated May 15, 2015 – New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Awarding 2015 Clean Communities Grant (\$20,762.30)

4. Letter Dated April 20, 2015, from Department of Transportation, NJDOT Fiscal Year 2015 Municipal Aid Program, Saddlewood Drive (Section 2) - No Funding

Council Member Ruocco asked what was the goal if the grant had been approved, and what will not get done because it was not. Mr. Polyniak explained that this was about the extension on Saddlewood Road were paving had occurred from Hillsdale Avenue, which will not continue.

5. Letter Dated May 5, 2015, Morrison Mahoney LLP, Stipulation of Settlement, 1102, Lot 2, 84 Park Avenue & Block 1102, Lot 3, 135 Broadway, Years 2011-2015 – Resolution

6. Mayor and Borough Clerk Authorize and Execute Employment Agreement Licensed Sewer Operator

7. Mayor and Borough Clerk Authorize and Execute Employment Agreement Fire Official

8. COAH – Vacant Land Analysis

Council Member Meyerson said he had a question as a result of the meeting last night, and Council President Pizzella explained that this will be discussed in Closed Session. Mr. Madaio noted that he would be able to discuss it more fully in Closed Session.

**POLICY:**

1. Employee Handbook Update

Ms. Witkowski noted that she has a meeting with the Borough Labor Attorney scheduled for Monday morning to further discuss the employee handbook update, which will also include the evaluation process.

2. Employee Evaluation Process

3. Resolution from Library Board regarding Reimbursement of Funds for Elevator Repair

4. Resolution to Create “Safe Zone” Regarding Craigslist

Council Member Ruocco asked about the experience of other municipalities when they have created “Safe Zones”. Chief Francaviglia explained that Lieutenant Smith did some research on this, and he found that there were many of these zones in Florida, as well as in a couple of jurisdictions in New Jersey. It is a new concept, and comprises an area in which people can meet to exchange goods. In Hillsdale, the zone would be either the rear parking lot behind Borough Hall, or at the Police Headquarters lobby. This enables transactions to proceed safely. Council Member Ruocco asked if it added materially to the traffic in the parking lot. Chief Francaviglia said he did not believe it would. Mr. Madaio commented that this was an idea raised by Chief Francaviglia, and Mr. Madaio supports it.

5. Ordinance Authorizing the Borough Clerk as Issuing Authority of Licenses, i.e., Raffle, Bingo

Council Member DeRosa asked if this means that the Borough Council will no longer vote on raffles and bingo events. Ms. Witkowski explained that the State makes these types of rulings, and it can be hard when people apply for these things, and they must wait for the next Borough Council meeting for an answer. The Borough Council will no longer vote on these things. This will also apply to block parties.

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

1. Eagle Scout Project, Xavier Cattelona, Troop 108 – Repair and Clean All Town Welcome Signs

Mayor Arnowitz pointed out that it will be necessary to find out what chemical can be used to clean the signs, and perhaps it might be necessary to contact the manufacturer.

2. Deer Population Control Resolution

Council Member Pizzella reminded Ms. Witkowski that the Environmental Commission was asked to make a recommendation regarding this, and he thinks they do have a draft recommendation, which they are finalizing.

3. Letter of Resignation Dated May 28, 2015, from Deborah Mati, Office Clerk

4. Block Party Application, 64 Westdale Avenue, June 27, 2015, Rain Date June 28, 2015

5. Letter Dated May 15, 2015, from Volunteer Center Bergen County, 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Bergen Bike Tour, Sunday, October 4, 2015, 7:30 AM-1:00 PM

6. Letter Dated May 7, 2015, Neglia Engineering Associates, Responses to Warning Letter Status, Centennial Field/Sanitary Landfill

7. Letter Dated May 29, 2015, Hillsdale Volunteer Ambulance Service, Asking Permission to Use Lot Next to Swim Club for Carnival, September 29-October 3, 2015

Council Member DeGise asked to include the west lot as an option, in addition to the parking lot. A secondary parking lot might have to be found for commuters. Council Member Looes noted that the last sentence states that they will request permission, and she wondered if this is subject to approval by the Stonybrook Swim Club. Ms. Witkowski said that is true, but it is first being presented to the Council Members to ensure that there will be no problem with the Borough.

Mayor Arnowitz stated that he has a problem with this, one of which is that the field is grass, and is a filled field. He is concerned about the safety issues of putting rides on the grass. There is also a concern about people being able to walk safely on the grass. A third concern is that it must be cleaned up every night,

which could be a problem getting all of the garbage out of the grass, and another concern is lighting, because there is no lighting at night on that field, other than the streetlights, which is minimal. The west lot does have lighting. Council Member DeGise thinks it would be safe to remove that option, and limit the carnival to the west lot. The problem was that the Ambulance Service was denied use of the commuter lot, but they did receive approval for another area today. Mayor Arnowitz said it was his understanding after talking to various people from the church that the denial was due to school, because children play there. He suggested that maybe dates could be chosen when children are not in school. Council Member DeGise stated that they would request the west lot instead of the Stonybrook Swim Club. The dates cannot be changed due to carnival vendor obligations. Ms. Witkowski said she would request another letter of approval from Butch Franklin.

8. ABC Licensing Extended to September 18, 2015

Ms. Witkowski commented that this is something new this year, liquor license holders will be renewing their licenses online beginning this year. There were a couple of problems with the State program, so the deadline was extended until September 18 from June 30, 2015. Ms. Witkowski hopes that most of the renewals can be completed in July or August. Council President Pizzella asked if there is any issue with this with respect to the budget or finances, and will it have an impact on cash flow at all. Ms. Witkowski said it would not.

**ORDINANCES: (for June 9, 2015)**

**ADOPTION:**

**15-12: ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF HILLSDALE, COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO AMEND CHAPTER 292 OF THE BOROUGH CODE ENTITLED “VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC” (by Demarest Farms)**

**WHEREAS**, the Chapter 292 of the Borough Code of the Borough of Hillsdale pertains to Vehicles and Traffic; and

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 292-55 establishes specific locations within the Borough where parking is prohibited at all times; and

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 292-57 establishes certain locations where parking is prohibited at certain times; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough desires to add specific locations and/or time restrictions to each of the aforesaid sections.

**NOW BE IT ORDAINED, BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF HILLSDALE AS FOLLOWS:**

The following shall be added to §292-55 Schedule XIV: Parking Prohibited at All Times:

Name of Street	Side	Location
Bedford Road	Both	From Fairhaven Drive to a point of 50 feet northerly therefrom
Craig Road	West	From Glen Hook Road to a point of 50 feet northerly and to a point of 50 feet southerly therefrom
Craig Road	West	From Melville Road to a point of 50 feet northerly and to a point of 50 feet southerly therefrom
Craig Road	West	From Douglas Drive to a point of 50 feet northerly and to a point of 50 feet southerly therefrom
Douglas Drive	Both	From Melville Road to a point of 50 feet southerly therefrom
Fairhaven Drive	South	From Bedford Road to a point of 50 feet easterly and to a point of 50 feet westerly therefrom
Melville Road	South	From Douglas Drive to a point of 50 feet easterly and to a point of 50 feet westerly therefrom
Royal Park Terrace	North	From Wiermus Road to a point 50 feet westerly therefrom
Standish Road	Both	From Fairhaven Drive to a point of 50 feet northerly therefrom
Winthrop Road	Both	From Fairhaven Drive to a point of 50 feet northerly therefrom

The following shall be added to §292-57 Schedule XVI Parking Prohibited Certain Hours:

Name of Street	Side	Hours/Days	Location
Bedford Road	West	9 am to 5pm Saturdays & Sundays (all)	From Hillsdale Avenue to Fairhaven Drive
Craig Road	East	9 am to 5pm Saturday & Sunday 8/30 – 10/30	From Wiermus Road to Alpine Terrace
Douglas Drive	East	9am to 5pm Saturday & Sunday 8/30 – 10/30	From Melville Road to Craig Road
Fairhaven Drive	North	9 am to 5pm Saturday & Sunday 8/30 – 10/30	From Plymouth Road to Bedford Road
Glenn Hook Road	North	9 am to 5pm Saturday & Sunday 8/30 – 10/30	From Douglas Drive to Craig Road
Hunters Court	Both	9 am to 5pm Saturday & Sunday 8/30 – 10/30	From Hillsdale Avenue to a point 500 feet southerly therefrom
Jane Court	North	9 am to 5pm Saturday & Sunday 8/30 – 10/30	From Bedford Road to Dead End
Langersfeld Road	North	9 am to 5pm Saturday & Sunday 8/30 – 10/30	From Wiermus Road to Beverly Road
Les a Lane	North	9 am to 5pm Saturday & Sunday 8/30 – 10/30	From Hunters Court to a point 500 feet easterly therefrom
Melville Road	North	9 am to 5pm Saturday & Sunday, 8/30 – 10/30	From 200 feet west of Wiermus Road to Craig Road
Paul Court	East	9 am to 5pm Saturday & Sunday 8/30 – 10/30	From Hillsdale Avenue to a point 500 feet southerly therefrom
Ridge Court	North	9 am to 5pm Saturday & Sunday 8/30 – 10/30	From Wiermus Road to Dead End
Royal Park Terrace	South	9 am to 5pm Saturday & Sunday 8/30 – 10/30	From Wiermus Road to Sunrise Drive

All Ordinances of parts of Ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed as to such inconsistencies only.

In the event that any word, phrase, clause, section or provision of this Ordinance is found by any Court of competent jurisdiction to be unenforceable, illegal or unconstitutional, such word, phrase, clause or provision shall be severable from the balance of this Ordinance and the remainder of this Ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

This Ordinance shall take effect upon passage and publication as provided by Law.

**RESOLUTIONS:** *(none)*

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Marty Ward, 47 East Liberty Avenue, stated that on June 12, there will be a barbecue at Demarest Farms. He mentioned that Jeff Alboum, a volunteer EMT/Firefighter, suffered a devastating stroke and needs help. Mr. Ward asked anyone who could find the time to come to the barbecue to support Mr. Alboum. It will be from 6 -10:30 PM, and will include dancing. It is a BYOB function. Donations can also be made at TD Bank; ask for Dan Cannon. On July 8, the summer concerts will begin. Funds are being collected at this time. A young adult concert is planned for July 24, with Eric Stigliano and his band performing. The

Game Zone will also be doing some type of interactive activity. If funding is available, the concerts will continue through the end of August.

Regarding the field lighting, Mr. Ward recalled when he was on the Ambulance Corps and calls would come in at midnight from people in the neighborhood saying that the lights were still on. That is how the practice of people paying to use the fields got started. Mr. Ward noted that if organizations are not held responsible for turning off the lights, they have no reason to do so. Council Member DeRosa noted that the lights are now on timers.

Mr. Ward also noted that yesterday was Primary Election Day, and he knows that the Borough is trying to cut costs. He asked why it is necessary to spend all that money in a non-competitive election. Mayor Arnowitz noted that it is the law. Council Member Meyerson pointed out that every voter has a right to write in a name for the election, which is not possible unless there is a Primary Election.

Kevin O'Brien, 61 Parkview Drive, stated that in response to a recent editorial that he wrote, Mayor Arnowitz wrote in his official capacity as Mayor that, as usual, Mr. O'Brien tells half or complete untruths. On December 9, 2014, the Mayor responded to a question about health care benefits extended to six former Borough employees, claiming that past Administrators and Mayors extended those benefits without his knowledge. According to the Closed Session minutes of July 12, 2011, Mayor Arnowitz stated that he asked for a Closed Session meeting because there are two situations that need to be addressed. One was with respect to Tom Farrell, who was on the list as one of those receiving health benefits. Those minutes are part of the public record. With respect to Waste Management, Mayor Arnowitz claimed on the record that it was worth \$10 million to the Borough, yet the Hillsdale Environmental Commission on its website stated that it was worth \$250,000-\$300,000 per year over 10 years, which is \$3 million, not \$10 million. With respect to the firehouse drinking policy, Mr. O'Brien stated that to the best of his knowledge, that policy has never been produced, and he finds it difficult to understand how the members of the Fire Department know what the policy is if it is not been released from Closed Session after the Capawana incident. Moving on to the editorial written by Mr. O'Brien, the newspaper asked him for copies of the documentation, which Mr. O'Brien scanned and sent to them via email. So to say that his information was half-true or completely untrue is not quite to the point, according to Mr. O'Brien. It failed to make any reference to Michele Woods, which came from the litigation that was filed in Bergen County Superior Court regarding her use of a Borough vehicle since 2002, as well as health care benefits.

Mayor Arnowitz responded that every one of the comments made by Mr. O'Brien were true at the time the incidents took place, and every one of the incidents were investigated and reported to the Council, where they were discussed, revised, and a determination was made on how to handle the incidents, which was done on the record. As far as the drinking policy is concerned, that situation was handled, as was the issue of a Borough employee getting a car, which was handled in the courts. Mayor Arnowitz also found one of Mr. O'Brien's comments to be extremely insulting, when he mentioned that Mayor Arnowitz ran out of the building like it was on fire. As a firefighter for 25+ years, Mayor Arnowitz helps to save many lives, and also had the unfortunate experience of pulling dead people out of burning buildings, and he found that comment to be extremely insulting to any firefighter or EMT on the job.

Regarding untruths and lies, Mayor Arnowitz said he stood by his comments. Most comments made by Mr. O'Brien were after-the-fact, and after any adjudication had occurred. Mayor Arnowitz recalled a Borough Council meeting that he did not attend due to illness, which was handled by Council President Pizzella, and Mr. O'Brien brought up these same issues. Unfortunately, Council President Pizzella and the other Council Members did not know that these issues had already been resolved, either by the courts or through negotiation. A lot of money was expended, and a lot of time and efforts given by this and prior Borough Councils to correct, if possible, any errors that could have been made. Mr. O'Brien keeps repeating Mr. Farrell's name, and Mayor Arnowitz noted that Mr. Farrell does receive benefits – because of contractual obligations on the part of the Borough of Hillsdale. Those obligations and contracts were made with the Hillsdale Police Department, not just with Mr. Farrell, and all of the Police Department personnel earned and will receive lifetime benefits as they meet the goals outlined in the original contract. Mayor Arnowitz stated that if the current Borough Council, or any member of the public, wishes to change that situation, the Council Members could discuss it and vote on it, or the member of the public could start a petition, and then negotiate with the PBA to see if it can be changed. Mayor Arnowitz asked if Mr. O'Brien could stop mentioning Mr. Farrell, because it upsets him, as well as his wife. Mayor Arnowitz said that the issue regarding Mr. Farrell is a dead issue, which was reviewed and handled in the proper manner, because he met the criteria at that time.

Herb Wolckenhauer, 19 Hopkins Street, recalled the recent rainstorm, and wondered what happened, because the brook was not flooded. Mayor Arnowitz pointed out that all of the water came down to one point, and he reminded Mr. Wolckenhauer what Mr. Polyniak said: that is the floodplain. It is possible to

get heavy rain in Hillsdale without flooding occurring, but the floodplain that feeds the brook does not get flooded. On the other hand, Hillsdale can also get flooded with very little rain, as long as the floodplain gets flooded. He added that the reservoir is also very low at this time in addition, for the annual fishing contest held in November, they have been putting enough water in the brook and reservoir for the fish, and then removing it. The contractor for United Water put pumps in the reservoir to pump the water into the stream for the fish. Mr. Wolckenhauer asked if the United Water project is nearing completion, and Mayor Arnowitz responded that the last time you spoke to them, they said it would be completed in November. Mr. Wolckenhauer asked if United Water gave any assistance to Hillsdale during the flooding. Mr. Wolckenhauer asked if United Water had been dumping any water prior to any expected storms. Mayor Arnowitz answered that a Mayor can request that be done, although the County cannot. In order to be effective, that must be done three days prior to any expected flooding. Each reservoir must be drained in succession. Council member DeGise noted that warnings start when the water level reaches 3.5 feet, although there is no procedural change. At three feet, the local OEM is notified, and at 3.5 feet, the process is started, and repeated at four, etc.

There were no other public comments at this time, and Council President Pizzella closed the time for public comments.

### **COUNCIL COMMENTARIES:**

Council Member Meyerson commented that the 2015 Memorial Day service was the best one he had ever attended. He congratulated the American Legion Post for a respectful, tasteful job, as well as for the five plaques for the Hillsdale Five, which were spectacular.

Council Member DeRosa mirrored what Council Member Meyerson said, also thinking the American Legion Post, DPW, Recreation Commission, the Hillsdale Police and Fire Departments, the Ambulance Corps, the OEM, and the sports associations for a great day. He agreed that the way the plaques were done, including the biographies of each individual, was wonderful.

Council Member DeGise reminded everyone about the event for Jeff Alboum on June 12 from 6:30-10:30 PM, at Demarest Farms. 100% of the proceeds will go to support Mr. Alboum. Many people have asked Council member DeGise about insurance coverage, and he wants everyone to understand that all of the treatments Mr. Alboum is undergoing are experimental, and are not covered by insurance. He has also passed his maximum threshold under his insurance. Council Member DeGise also told Mayor Arnowitz that he would follow Mayor Arnowitz in any fire.

Council Member Ruocco congratulated the new Eagle Scouts, Paul Giovanni, Ryan Viceconte, and Jeff Wertheim of Troop 109. Council Member Ruocco was asked to attend the ceremony, but he could not, so he commended them in writing, and met them at the pancake breakfast. He also reminded the senior citizens that there is a senior freeze property tax program, which was extended by the Christie Administration for 2014 property tax reimbursement until October 15, 2015. More information can be obtained by contacting Candace Schaefer, Tax Collector at Borough Hall.

Council President Pizzella mentioned that he runs an event every year at Meadowbrook School, and although it is a school event, Council President Pizzella wanted to mention it. It is the MFFA Third Annual Family-Faculty Softball Game, when parents and teachers play against parents and teachers. Most of the participants are parents, although some of the teachers also participate. It is open to the public. Council President Pizzella commented that if anyone wants to see the community truly coming together, s/he should attend this game. He noted that he brought this up because he has lived in Hillsdale for nine years, and it took him a while to get used to living here. It also took him a while to get used to being a Council Member. Sometimes, Council President Pizzella said he doubts his decision to become a Council Member. However, there are so many positive things in Hillsdale, such as the Memorial Day parade, and he has been honored to participate in that parade for the past nine years. It means a lot to him that the town where he lives holds such an event, and recognizes people who lost their lives for others. It says a lot about this town, which is a town of volunteers, and a great community. The event will be on June 12 starting at 6:00 PM, with a rain date of June 19, at Memorial Field.

Mayor Arnowitz wanted to ensure that correct information is available on the Borough website, especially with respect to field names. He asked Ms. Witkowski to verify, and make sure that the field names are correct. He also mentioned that the Downtown sign needs to be replaced; Ms. Witkowski has information about how much it would cost to replace it.

Borough Clerk Witkowski reminded everyone that the results from the Primary Election are available online. She agreed that it is a lot of work for the relatively few voters that do show up, but it is an important day, and needs to be held. On June 16-18, the County will be coming in to do a mobile office

and passport services they will be here each day from 10:00 AM-2:00 PM, and will be processing passport applications, photo cards, notary applications, business trade names, etc. There is a flyer linked on the Borough website, as well as more information about what services will be offered. The annual town-wide garage sale will be on Saturday, June 13, and anyone who wants to participate can sign up at Borough Hall. The fee is \$10, and maps will be distributed. The Borough website will also offer free advertising.

**ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION: @9:43 PM**

R15128 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 – collective bargaining negotiations; litigation; attorney/client privilege, including SOBER, COAH, and DPW.

**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 *negotiations UPSEU, Teamsters, and 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 *SOBER; COAH; 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 Ruocco, Second by Council Member Meyerson, and unanimously approved.

**RECONVENE REGULAR MEETING: @10:44 PM**

Motion to reconvene regular session was made by Council Member Meyerson, Second by Council Member Looes, and unanimously approved.

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: @10:45 PM**

Motion to adjourn was made by Council Member DeRosa, second by Council Member Looes, and unanimously approved.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL WILL BE  
TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2015 – BEGINNING AT 7:30 P.M.

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Susan Witkowski, Municipal Clerk

APPROVED AS PRESENTED  
AUGUST 11, 2015

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Susan Witkowski, Municipal

Clerk