

Minutes of a Council Meeting of the Borough of Hillsdale held at 7:43 P.M. on Wednesday, November 4, 2015, in the Council Chamber, Borough of 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 6th day of October 2015. Notice of 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 roll call those in attendance were Councilmembers DeGise, DeRosa, Looes, Myerson, Ruocco, and Council President Pizzella. Also in attendance were Mayor Arnowitz, Borough Attorney Madaio and Borough Administrator/Borough Clerk Witkowski.

APPOINTMENTS/OATHS OF OFFICE:

Mayor Arnowitz stated that at the next meeting, James Alburtus will be sworn in as a Fire Cadet, and Lt. Sean Smith will be promoted to Captai, with the Hillsdale Police Department.

RECOGNITION:

There were no recognitions this evening.

PRESENTATION

Mayor Arnowitz stated that there will be a presentation regarding H.E.F.S.P. by Darlene Green of Maser Consulting at the next meeting.

PROCLAMATIONS

There were no proclamations this evening.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There were no minutes for approval this evening.

PROFESSIONAL REPORTS/MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORTS

(The following correspondence on file in Borough Clerk's Office)

Department of Public Works

Dan O'Rourke, Interim Superintendent of Public Works, reported on a breakdown of the leaf vac. He took it to River Vale to be repaired, and it was returned today. Leaf pick-up is on scheduled so far this year. Mr. O'Rourke said that the Borough had planned on purchasing two new pieces of machinery this year. He has been working with the CFO, and they have come up with funding for a pick-up truck that can be used for plowing as well. Councilmember Ruocco said that there should be a meeting with himself, the CFO and Mr. O'Rourke about these purchases.

Councilmember Looes asked whether the Borough was being broken into zones for leaf pick-up. Mr. O'Rourke said they are not using zones this year because there is too much pressure to keep up. He asked everyone to put their leaves out now, and stated that they are working at a good pace. Ms. Witkowski indicated that the information has gone out to residents via e-mail blast, and there is additional information on the website. Mr. O'Rourke stated that the DPW will be coming around twice to pick up the leaves, and the service will conclude on December 8th or 9th. Councilmember Myerson questioned the time it takes to go through the Borough for one round of leaf pick-up. Mr. O'Rourke said that they would be finished their first tour by the end of November.

Mayor Arnowitz referred to the leaf vac, and recalled that it was undersized. He asked what had broken on the leaf vac. Mr. O'Rourke said that it was the impeller shaft which was broken, and Mayor Arnowitz pointed out that this is the same item which caused a problem on the old vac. He suggested that the Borough purchase a larger one leaf vac. Mr. O'Rourke stated the leaf vac was one of the purchases being made through the capital fund. They could buy a larger attachment that would fit on the pick-up truck mentioned earlier. They could also look into purchasing an automated arm which means that only one person has to be in the truck to operate it. Mayor Arnowitz reminded everyone that technically the leaves are only supposed to be in the street for three days due to leaching. He explained that the leaves give off a fluid which gets into the sewers, and eventually into the water supply. They also have to be ensure that the storm drains do not become blocked, which is another reason why Mayor Arnowitz is recommending a larger leaf vac that works quickly. Mr. O'Rourke said that rather than dumping the leaves in Northvale, he is having them dumped in the yard, so that the workers can get back on the roads faster.

Councilmember Myerson asked how the DPW could get through the town so quickly on the second trip through. Mr. O'Rourke explained that the majority of the leaves have fallen. and there is not the same volume when they go through the second time.

Police Department

Adam Hampton, Sergeant, reported that during the month of October Hillsdale had 93 dispatch shifts, which were covered by non-sworn personnel, except for two shifts that were covered by sworn personnel. The Police Department conducted practical exercises involving active shooter scenarios at St. Johns Academy. This was hands-on training to advance officers' skill set training in these types of situations. During October, 208 summonses were issued, with 14 criminal arrests, and 25 motor vehicle incidents. Sgt. Hampton stated that on November 5th, at 7:00 P.M., the Hillsdale Police Department will be hosting an autism awareness program for all emergency service personnel. This program will feature important training for all branches of the emergency services who, at some point will be dealing with residents who fall into this category.

Sgt. Hampton advised that the Hillsdale Police Department has had average overtime expenditure from 2011 to 2014 of approximately \$158,000 per year. The Police Department has expended less than \$40,000 in 2015, which is attributable to the change to twelve hour shifts, and other strong policies on sick time and time off put into place by Chief Francaviglia as well as an outstanding commitment put forward by the Hillsdale Police Department.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilmember DeGise – There was no report this evening.

Councilmember DeRosa –

Regional Board of Education - Councilmember DeRosa said that there was one empty spot which was filled by Jeffrey Steinfeld, who ran unopposed. He thanked Pascack Valley Bible

Church, who hosted members of the Dug Out Club, which is a parent organization that helps the baseball teams to clean up the dugout and the batting cages.

Recreation – Councilmember DeRosa stated that Recreation has a regularly scheduled meeting tomorrow

Stonybrook – Councilmember DeRosa stated that last month the Commission voted to send out a Request for Proposal for a pool enclosure also known as a bubble; however, as of today that has not been done. Recommendations were made by the Pool Director for special events for next season. This month's meeting date has been postponed, and has not been rescheduled as of yet.

Mayor Arnowitz said that a revenue report was submitted, which he asked everyone to review. He pointed out that the revenue is not at the level they had wanted.

Councilmember Looes - Councilmember Looes said she would make a report at the next meeting.

Councilmember Meyerson

Shared Services – Councilmember Meyerson said that there was a meeting scheduled for tomorrow night, which was cancelled by the Borough expert. She did send information that should be discussed in Closed Session.

Councilmember Ruocco

Finance Committee – Councilmember Ruocco reported on the Finance Committee meeting of October 26th, and stated that the topic was the senior van, which has been out of service for the last two months. There was no consensus relative to an optimal solution by the members of the Finance Committee. The Borough Administrator continues to search for a replacement van. The Finance Committee discussed both long and short term solutions, and he feels that a decision needs to be made now. He recommended repairing the transmission at a cost of between \$2,800 and \$2,900. Mayor Arnowitz said that something needs to be done now, and he suggested a motion to that end. Councilman Ruocco said that the Borough Administrator was planning to give an update on the situation later in the meeting, and he could make a motion to have the van repaired after that.

Councilmember Ruocco stated that at a recent Labor Negotiation Conference he attended, it was brought up that the Affordable Health Care Act provides for a tax on Cadillac health insurance, which affects most if not all of Borough employees. This tax has to be paid by the employer, and many municipalities are preparing for this. There are no exceptions for government plans, and there is a 40% tax on premiums for individual policies, which goes into effect in 2018.

Office of Emergency Management – Councilmember Ruocco announced a FEMA reimbursement of \$53,000, based on Super Storm Sandy. Mayor Arnowitz said that this money could be used in various areas because the bills relative to Sandy have already been paid. Councilmember Ruocco said that they will have to go out to bid for the emergency generator that will be installed in the Trinity School.

Demarest Farms – Councilmembers DeGise and Myerson recused themselves at 7:54 P.M. Councilmember Ruocco reported on the meeting of October 26th which was attended by the SOS Group, the Police Department, Council President Pizzella and himself. Demarest Farms was invited but they did not send a representative. The discussion focused on the residences, the farm, and the Borough's mutual interest in maintaining safety. They spoke on the still developing state of legal expertise on matters relating to agricultural law in New Jersey. The Police Department reviewed what has been done so far relative to traffic management, and

parking regulations. The SOS group of residents discussed what they believed were possible solutions to the problem, and provided articles and references regarding the Farm Act. As a result of this meeting, Councilmember Ruocco feels they are better able to frame a variety of questions for the Borough Attorney to research, which should clarify the standing, the powers and the prerogatives under Municipal Code, Land Use Regulations and the Farm Act that the municipality could pursue going forward. Mr. Madaio is working on these questions, and Councilmember Ruocco said he hopes the SOS group and the farm will be able to work out a reasonable response to the situation, with the help of the Police Department and the Borough Council as well. Councilmember Ruocco indicated that he would be happy to mediate in any way possible.

Mayor Arnowitz said that he is hearing conflicting reports relative to the Farm Act. These are things that should be researched to ensure that the Borough is doing everything that they are legally able to do because he doesn't want the Borough to be in a position where it will have to pay legal fees because it has overstepped its bounds.

Council President Pizzella

Historic Preservation – Council President reported on Halloween in Hillsdale, which was a collaborative effort between open space, Historic Preservation, the Recreation Department, and the Police Department. He stated that just slightly over \$3,000 was raised, and he thanked the subcommittee composed of Patty Hughes, Denise Cohen, Abby Lundy, Anthony DeRosa, Sean Smith, Peter Hart, Adam Hampton Aaron Hampton, and James Alba. Special thanks went to the Hillsdale Police Department, including Chief Francaviglia, Asst. Chief Smith, Sgt. McLaughlin, and Sgt. Hampton; the Recreation Commission; the Historic Preservation Commission; the Bergen County Model Train Club; John Pucchio, Vice Principal of Pascack Valley High School; Pascack Valley High School Drama Students who dressed up in costume; the art students for the window displays; all the Hillsdale merchants who participated; all the donors and supporters; and Demarest Farms for donating the pumpkins and the hay. Council President Pizzella said that this event couldn't have been accomplished without the help of everyone who was involved, and he thanked everyone again, along with all the residents who participated. He said that he is looking forward to another great event next year.

Council President Pizzella stated that the Borough Administrator has the County Grant Agreement, and she is working with New Jersey Transit to get it signed. Once the agreement is returned to the County, the money is obligated to the Borough. The Borough has to have its portion of the money set aside at that time also. They will begin to look for a historic architect in January, and Council President Pizzella encouraged everyone to donate to the cause. Checks should be made payable to the Borough of Hillsdale, and note in the memo section Hillsdale RR Station Restoration Fund. He said that there will be other events scheduled in the future.

Mayor Arnowitz thanked Council President Pizzella for all of his hard work on this event. He received many calls from residents indicating that this is the way they would like to continue rather than the way things were done in the past.

Council President Pizzella said that he forgot to thank the Fire Department, and the DPW for their help and assistance. Councilmember DeRosa agreed that this was a great event, and he added that this could be a turning point for Hillsdale. He thanked Council President Pizzella for this collaborative effort and reiterated that this should be turned into an annual event.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Sports Agreement - Councilmember DeRosa reported on the Sports Agreement, and said that a question was raised about the requirement that officials must be fingerprinted. The organizations used by the Borough don't have this requirement. The consensus was that it would

be acceptable as long as the coaches and town people go through all the required certifications. Councilmember DeRosa said that these regulations are included in the Borough ordinance.

Councilmember DeRosa stated that there is a clause in the Agreement stating that the Borough will cover the cost of portable bathrooms, which is approximately \$2,500 per year. Up until this point, the associations have paid for them. Councilmember DeRosa said that if these groups are providing a service that otherwise be the Borough's responsibility, the Borough should provide the bathrooms as a fundamental service. Mayor Arnowitz indicated that this would be a decision for the 2016 Council.

Mr. Madaio recommended making a decision on this rather minor issue, which is the last outstanding issue. Councilmember DeRosa said that this would require adding \$2,500 to the Recreation budget, and he made a motion requiring the Borough to cover this cost. Councilmember DeGise seconded the motion. Mayor Arnowitz commented that there is a bathroom at Smith Field, but it is never open on time.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Councilmembers DeGise, DeRosa, Looes, Myerson, Ruocco, and Council President Pizzella

Nays: None

2. Senior Van Update –Ms. Witkowski stated that she is looking at three options. Woodcliff Lake is taking over the van from Park Ridge/Montvale on Monday. They recently made repairs and took care of some maintenance issues. She has spoken with the Borough Administrator from Woodcliff Lake who is excited about the prospect of working together, and he will discuss this with his Council tomorrow night. He is considering contacting the Sherriff's Department about the possibility of painting the van.

Ms. Witkowski reported that Saddle Brook recently bought a van through a Community Development Block grant. She spoke with someone at the County, and proposed that the title be transferred from Saddle Brook to Hillsdale since it would be used for the same purpose, and Saddle Brook has no desire to keep the van. There is also the possibility of using a bus from Scholastic Bus if more seats were added, and it was painted. A van from Westwood is available only on Fridays.

Mayor Arnowitz stated that no matter what option is selected, it would be a good idea to have a backup. He recommended investing in the transmission because it could have a resale value if the transmission was operable. Councilmember Myerson said that these options are all temporary fixes, and he pointed out that if Hillsdale were successful in obtaining a grant it would be three years before they could go out to bid on a van. He said that this van is 25 years old, and will cost \$3,000 to fix. While he agreed that the concept of a back-up vehicle is good, he asked if it was reasonable to continue to use a 25 year old van as the primary mode of transportation for the seniors. Mr. O'Rourke indicated that it would take two weeks to fix the transmission on the existing van.

Councilmember Ruocco reviewed the options, and stated that they will know tomorrow whether or not Woodcliff Lake is willing to share their van. Mr. O'Rourke will look at the Saddle Brook van tomorrow and immediately report on the specific condition to the Borough Administrator. The Borough Council of Saddle Brook would have to approve the transfer of the van to Hillsdale, which could take several weeks. The scholastic bus will seat eight, which is not enough, and the Council ruled this option out. Councilmember Ruocco stated that if the answer tomorrow from Woodcliff Lake is favorable they should go forward. Mayor Arnowitz stated that an agreement with Woodcliff Lake will take at least a month and he reiterated the importance of a back-up vehicle. He recommended using the money the Borough just received from FEMA to fix the van, and then they should begin to look into the purchase of a new van.

Upon questioning by Councilmember Looes on the van from Saddle Brook, Ms. Witkowski said that there would be no cost involved. She said it would be better to have this 12 year old van as a backup, as opposed to a 25 year old van. Mayor Arnowitz said that under the best circumstances it would take four weeks to get the van from Saddle Brook. Councilmember Ruocco said that Mr. O'Rourke is going to inspect the van tomorrow. If he thinks the van is in relatively good condition they should take this van as a stop gap measure for the next two or three years because it appears to be a better solution than putting money into the 25 year old van. Councilmember Ruocco suggested that they go forward with the necessary application for a van from New Jersey Transit.

After a lengthy discussion, Mayor Arnowitz asked that a final decision be made on this subject at next week's meeting. Councilmember Myerson brought up the idea of buying a new van, and Mayor Arnowitz said that this decision would have to be made by the new Mayor and Council in 2016. The CFO has indicated that he does not want to use any excess funds to purchase a new van due to anticipated future liabilities. Mayor Arnowitz said that they have never addressed the sanitary sewer system, which is approximately 60 years old, and will need major repairs and upgrades in the not too distant future. Leaks had been detected in the past and this increasing the cost for processing with the County. Councilmembers agreed to make a decision next week.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business this evening.

DISCUSSION

BUDGET

1. Cancellation Reserves Capital Budget Fund -
2. Leaf season (DPW Supt) previously discussed.
3. DPW equipment updates (DPW Supt.)
4. Stonybrook Pool Commission meeting update previously discussed.

BUDGET

1. Accept comments and recommendations 2014 Audit/Group Affidavit – Reviewed at least the recommendations of audit.
2. Cancellation of Special Item of Revenue, Chapter 159, Radon Awareness Program.
3. Budget Transfers – Stonybrook amended
4. Authorize dedication by rider for Memorial Day Parade donations.
5. Resolution of foreclosed properties owned by the Borough.
6. Authorize dedication by rider for D.A.R.E. donations
7. 2015 Salary Ordinance – in closed.
8. Authorize purchase of Pick-Up Truck DPW
9. Repair to bridge Wierimus Lane over Musquapsink Brook – received quotes.
10. Receipt of bids, loader update.

11. Award of contract Supplemental Snow Plowing
12. Award of contract Sidewalk Snow Removal.
13. Preliminary cost estimate for Wierimus Road Culvert Replacement – Engineer proposal for surveying, engineering, and construction management services for project
14. Drainage conditions vicinity of 176 Knickerbocker Avenue.
15. Authorize purchase of Tink Claw.
16. Authorize Borough Clerk to Advertise bids for Trius Snow Plow for J Hook Truck
17. Authorize award of contract to Authorinet Consulting, L.L.C., extension to November 30, 2016 per bid proposal submitted December 10, 2014.
18. Authorize Borough Administrator to sign MOU with Hillsdale Crossing Guards Association.
19. Award of contract 2015 Road Program
20. Bridge inspection Saddlewood Drive over Pascack Brook Tributary

POLICY

1. Authorize resolution regarding Woodcliff Lake Reservoir as Westwood filed. Mr. Madaio advised that the Council should see the report before they pass the resolution. Ms. Witkowski will get a copy of the report.
2. Best Practices – Mayor Arnowitz stated that this is done annually, and Ms. Witkowski indicated that this has been filed. Councilmember Ruocco asked Ms. Witkowski to be prepared to discuss why the ratings have changed at next week’s meeting. He added that it may be appropriate to have the Borough CFO available to discuss this. Councilmember Ruocco noted that there have been increases in some of the minimum salaries for some positions, and Ms. Witkowski said that this should be discussed in Closed Session.
3. Handbook Meeting Dates – Ms. Witkowski is working on this.
4. Authorize Hillsdale Police Department to acquire Demilitarized Equipment utilizing the 1033 Program – Councilmember Ruocco indicated that he had spoken to the Police Chief about recrafting the language. He will give his ideas to Mr. Madaio.
5. Authorize resolution asking the State Legislature to raise purchase age for tobacco – Councilmember Myerson said that this ordinance is on next week’s agenda for second reading. Councilmember Ruocco agreed, and explained that assuming it does pass he is offering this resolution because it will cover the ineffectiveness of Ordinance 1513. He noted that certain businesses in Hillsdale stand to lose out on non-tobacco related purchases, and the other resolution would be a companion resolution that would go directly to the Governor. Mayor Arnowitz agreed that any ordinance passed by Hillsdale will be ineffective. Hillsdale should write a resolution suggesting that that State raise the age for tobacco purchase to twenty-one Statewide. The resolution will note that Hillsdale has passed Ordinance 1513, but if the ordinance does not pass the request should still be sent to the State.

MISCELLANEOUS

1. Field Guide to Beechwood Nature Trail and Conservancy – Mayor Arnowitz stated that this is an Eagle Scout project completed by Hugh Cassidy. Council President Pizzella said that Mr. Cassidy should be recognized by the Borough for this accomplishment after he receives his Eagle badge.

2. Letter from NJDEP to United Water regarding extension of Dam Safety Permit #1386. Mayor Arnowitz questioned whether this is something the Borough has to go forward with, or could it be used as a bargaining chip with United Water. Mr. Madaio advised against this.

ORDINANCES:

There were no ordinances.

RESOLUTIONS

There were no resolutions.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kevin O'Brien, 61 Parkview Drive, referred to the tobacco ordinance, and noted an article in the Bergen Record indicating that these types of ordinances seem to be a trend that is catching on in surrounding municipalities. He commended the Council for their stand on this issue. In one of the municipalities where the age was raised from 19 to 21, the opponents could not produce any information to show that the loss of revenue was a burden to these businesses, and he challenged business owners to do that here.

Mr. O'Brien noted that the Borough has an existing policy of not discussing litigation or pending litigation matters. He asked if this has changed. Mayor Arnowitz said that he thought it was law that litigation could not be discussed until the litigation was completed. Mr. Madaio asked what Mr. O'Brien was referring to because this is not a policy or a law, however, generally the Council will avail itself of the right to go into Closed Session to discuss litigation. Mayor Arnowitz stated that in negotiations, the Borough's position most likely differs from the individual they are negotiating with. Mr. O'Brien said that he was reviewing the "Letters to the Editor" regarding the election, and he noted something written by Council President Pizzella. Council President Pizzella stated that "each Council Member should be qualified to participate in the business affairs of the Borough, and should be an independent creative thinker" Mr. O'Brien asked if Council President Pizzella was implying that the Borough should eliminate the Borough Administrator's role to save the taxpayers money.

Council President Pizzella said that this was not the case. He meant that each Councilmember should be qualified to participate in the business of the Borough, and they should bring a skill set in order to contribute in a significant manner. He was not referring to the Borough Administrator, but rather to people running for Council.

Mr. O'Brien pointed out that Councilmember Myerson in his editorial pointed to economic development as the solution in Hillsdale. Mr. O'Brien asked if he has shared a written vision with the Council as well as the next group coming in. Councilmember Myerson said that Council President Pizzella could address that question because they both sit on the Economic Development Committee. There is a plan to go forward with economic development, and to declare a portion of Hillsdale as in need of economic development or rehabilitation. There will be an announcement after the Economic Development Committee makes a decision as to what shape this will take. Mayor Arnowitz stated that the Planning Board has been reviewing a plan, but there has been no vote at this time. Council President Pizzella explained that they have been

in discussions with Bob Benecke, the Economic Advisor contracted by Hillsdale, to research repurposing in the industrial area, but there is no formal plan. Mr. O'Brien questioned whether a transit village would be part of the concept. Council President Pizzella indicated that this hasn't been specifically discussed, but they have discussed including portions of the downtown in the redevelopment plan.

Mr. O'Brien said he received a flyer stating that a member of the Republican party had his driveway paved by the DPW at taxpayer expense. He said he thought this had been an ongoing practice for twenty years. Mayor Arnowitz said that this is not an ongoing practice, and he had reviewed this accusation with the Borough Administrator, the County, and the Police Chief. Everyone agreed that there was no fault found on the part of the Borough, or on the part of the Councilperson. Mayor Arnowitz stated that when his street was dug up for repaving, the contractor dug up two feet of his driveway, which was replaced by the contractor, and this is Borough policy.

Council President Pizzella said he is the Councilmember referred to by Mr. O'Brien. He stated that this happened over a year ago when the DPW was repairing potholes on Hillsdale Avenue. The DPW put macadam on the last two feet of the driveway, which is in the right-of way. As a result, the prosecutor's office was called, but the prosecutor's office couldn't find any issue, and turned this back over to the Borough. Council President Pizzella stated that he cooperated with the police in their investigation, which concluded that many driveways had work of this type done.

Mr. O'Brien raised the issue that the Republican Planning Board is being sued in Federal Court for violating the civil rights of an applicant. Mr. O'Brien said that he stood in opposition to this application for eighteen months, and he questioned specifics relative to the civil rights that were breeched. Councilmember Myerson suggested that Mr. O'Brien read the complaint that was filed. Mr. O'Brien said he that he spent eighteen months working with the residents of Magnolia helping them develop the power point presentation. They made sure that they did everything necessary not to violate anyone's civil rights. Mr. Madaio stated that the pending complaint states that Hillsdale and the Planning Board violated 42 USC 1983, which is a federal civil rights statute. Mr. O'Brien reiterated that it is generally accepted that there is no Borough policy on the discussion of litigation other than in Closed Session. If that is the case, why did this lawsuit surface in an election flyer? He supported the Board's decision not to support the application before the Planning Board because the applicant mandated that she would not accept men under thirty, or men who were handicapped, which is an obvious violation of civil rights.

Sgt. Adam Hampton said that if anyone has any further questions on the driveway issue they could speak with him.

At 8:50 P.M. Councilmembers DeGise and Myerson recused themselves. Phil Cohn, 31 Royal Park Terrace, stated that over the past few days, propaganda has been distributed via social media, flyers, and robot calls stating that "Republican Councilmembers have privately instructed the Hillsdale Attorney to do legal research at taxpayer's expense on behalf of a small minority of residents who want to shut down the farm". Mr. Cohn stated that the concerns of the SOS Task Force are not political, and it is unfortunate that an attempt was made during election season to try to make it political. This is a town wide issue dealing with safety and health. He said that the over two hundred members of the SOS Task Force do not want to shut down the farm. As stated at the October 13th Council Meeting, the goal of the Task Force is to work with the Council, the Police Department, and the farm to address the impact the growth of the farm is having on both the town, and the residents. Mr. Cohn reiterated that this is about the safety, health, and security of every resident of Hillsdale. He thanked the Councilmembers, and the Police Department on behalf of the task force for joining the representatives at the Committee meeting recommended by Mayor Arnowitz. It is unfortunate that the farm would only attend if they could bring a

lawyer. Mr. Cohn noted that the meeting was productive, and the Committee looks forward to future meetings. He hopes the farm will join them in the future, without lawyers, so that they can continue to collaborate as neighbors.

Councilmember Myerson rejoined the meeting at 8:53 P.M. Ann Cron, 187 Magnolia Street, said that she is a van assistant on the Senior Van, and she works at the Tuesday Hot Lunch program. She referred to a resident who needs transportation, and said that they haven't seen her for two months. Ms. Cron pointed out that she is a virtual prisoner who cannot leave her home, and she implored the Council to do something about the senior van. She stated that at the last 50 Plus Meeting many people wrote letters to the Mayor and Council regarding the van. Ms. Witkowski indicated that she told Councilmember Ruocco about the letters, and she added that she learned that the 50 Plus club members have never used the van. Ms. Cron asked why the letters weren't listed on the agenda, and Mayor Arnowitz said he would look into this.

Councilmember DeGise returned to the dais at 8:54 P.M.

Referring back to the driveway issue, Council President Pizzella asked Sgt. Hampton if a thorough investigation had been conducted. Sgt. Hampton said that the investigation was completed in the same manner as any other investigation done by the Hillsdale Police Department. No wrong doing was found and everyone involved in the investigation cooperated fully.

There were no other comments from the public at this time, and Mayor Arnowitz closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

COUNCIL COMMENTARIES

Councilmember Looes spoke about the coat drive, and stated that there is a box in the hallway by the front door where coats can be dropped off. Gently used and new coats will be accepted from November 6th to December 16th, 2015. This coat drive is being sponsored by Hillsdale Helping Hillsdale. Turkey drop-off for the Hillsdale Pantry is at Hillsdale United Methodist Church on Tuesday, November 21st. Kings Supermarkets have donated turkey and she encouraged anyone with extra turkeys to make a donation.

Councilmember Looes thanked everyone for coming out to vote. She congratulated the victors in the election, and reminded everyone that voting is a privilege, which she would like to see more residents take advantage of.

Councilmember DeRosa reminded everyone that next Tuesday is Veteran's Day, and he thanked all veterans for their service particularly the members of the Hillsdale Legion. He thanked Councilmembers Looes and Myerson, and other Republican candidates for participating in the process. Councilmember DeRosa stated that it takes a lot of effort to run for office. He congratulated the winners, and said that he is looking forward to working with them.

Councilmember Myerson congratulated Abby Lundy, Scott Karson and Doug Frank on their election victory. He thanked Peter Hardy and Chris Looes for their hard work in the election.

Council President Pizzella thanked everyone for coming out to vote, and he congratulated Abby Lundy, Scott Karcich and Doug Frank for their election victory. He looks forward to working with them. He reminded everyone to donate to the Train Station.

Councilmember Ruocco offered congratulations to the winners in the election, and said he looks forward to working with them to improve the management of the Borough, and to use taxpayer money in a wise manner. He hopes government transparency and ethical behavior will also improve. He congratulated James Alburtus for becoming a member of the Hillsdale Fire

Department, and he noted that all Hillsdale residents are indebted to the volunteers in the Borough.

Councilmember Ruocco thanked Meredith Kates, who alerted him to a presentation by the Humane Society on October 27th, about deer management. The presentation, which was very informative, took place in Saddle River. The Humane Society has offered a free service that will assess and define the scope of the deer problem. Councilmember Ruocco will share this information with the Environmental Commission and Council President Pizzella. He reminded everyone that he had recommended that Carol Stanko, who represents the Division of Fish and Wildlife make a presentation to the Council because she objected to the report of the Environmental Commission. He pointed out that the Council should hear from the Humane Society as well because the Borough will need to be proactive in the future.

Councilmember DeGise congratulated the winners in the election, and everyone who participated.

Mayor Arnowitz stated that he believes that the solution to the deer problem has nothing to do with killing these magnificent animals. He doesn't understand why anyone would want to hunt in Hillsdale where they are in such close proximity to their neighbors. He indicated that he would not support bow hunting, which is a slow death, and dangerous to residents.

Mayor Arnowitz reminded residents not to park on top of the leaves in the street.

Mayor Arnowitz congratulated the successful candidates in the election. He said that over many years he has served with both qualified and unqualified individuals. He pointed out that it is very frustrating when people come to meetings unprepared, and he pointed out that there is a lot of work that needs to be done before and after Council meetings. Everyone can serve on the Council if they are open minded, and everyone should consider serving. He stated that the town needs new people and new ideas that are effective.

Mayor Arnowitz referred to the Senior van, and said that he finds it frustrating that nothing is being done. He understands that putting \$3,000 into repairing the van may not be the most prudent decision, but they need to have something on the road for the seniors. The senior lunch had been funded by a grant until this year when the Borough Administrator managed to raise more money than was available through the grant to continue the program. Mayor Arnowitz said that the Borough can't afford to lose the seniors because they pay a lot of taxes and use with few services. The Borough must take care of the seniors, and \$3,000 for repairs to the van isn't much.

Ms. Witkowski stated that next week Girl Scout Troop 95453 will attend the meeting for a brief badge ceremony at the beginning under the leadership of Ms. Brannigan. The Girl Scouts want to see government at work as part of their work on the government badge. Ms. Witkowski noted that New Jersey Manufactures will be coming to Borough Hall on November 19th to discuss their programs with Borough employees at no cost to the Borough. On December 1st at 6:00 P.M., the Council is invited to a MELS seminar before the Council meeting. This is the public officials and employment practices liability seminar that is usually given at the League of Municipalities convention. The Borough will receive credit towards insurance if everyone attends.

Ms. Witkowski received a phone call from Buyer Fleet indicating that the Borough was overcharged for the truck that was purchased last year. They will give her more information as to the refund shortly, and they were very apologetic.

Ms. Witkowski stated that the project on River Vale Road will commence in about a week, and traffic will be re-routed for six to eight months. She asked that everyone review the

recommendations from the County relative to the bridges that are being inspected and repaired. One of the bridges is shared between Hillsdale and Woodcliff Lake and the projected estimate is \$18,000 for repairs, and \$48,000 for engineering fees. If bridges are not on County roads, the Borough is responsible for the cost of repairs. She added that there is a time frame and a priority list for these repairs.

Regarding the deer problem, Ms. Witkowski said that she has tried to get the League of Humane Voters to make a presentation. They have indicated that they don't want to make a presentation to a large group, but only to small groups. She hasn't forgotten about this and is trying to get everyone together.

Ms. Witkowski had a meeting with Council President Pizzella, Scott Raymond and Meredith Kates relative to the tree situation. Council President Pizzella reported that they are working on a process that will maintain trees, which will involve residents going online to complete a form to get trees inspected.

ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION @10:48 PM

R 15228 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 – *Negotiations Teamsters/Crossing Guards/UPSEU/PBA, COAH litigation, SOBER Litigation, SOS meeting, personnel Zoning/DPW/typist/WCL litigation PVRHS bidding matter.*

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/PBA/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 – *COAH litigation, shared services WCL, personnel/DPW/Zoning/Clerk's Office; litigation 150 magnolia; SOS Farm; PVRHS litigation*
- (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 to adjourn to closed session made by Councilmember Myerson, second by Councilmember Looes, and unanimously approved.

RECONVENE REGULAR MEETING @ 11:39 P.M.

Motion to reconvene regular session was made by Council President Pizzella, second by Councilmember DeRosa and unanimously approved

Mayor Arnowitz stated that the Council had discussed COAH, negotiations, personnel and benefits for retirees. Action may or may not be taken at this time.

RECONVENE REGULAR MEETING : @10:58 p.m.

Motion to reconvene regular session at 10:58 P.M. was made by Councilmember , seconded by Councilmember and unanimously agreed.

ADJOURNMENT @11:59 P.M.

Motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember DeGise, second by Councilmember Looes, and unanimously approved.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL WILL BE
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2015 – BEGINNING AT 7:30 p.m.

Denise Kohan, Deputy Municipal Clerk

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

Denise Kohan, Deputy Municipal Clerk