

Minutes of a Council Meeting of the Borough of Hillsdale held at 7:30 PM on Tuesday, March 3, 2020, in the Council Chamber, Borough of Hillsdale, New Jersey.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Ruocco who also 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 March, 2020. Notice of the time and place of this meeting has been provided to The Ridgewood News and The Record; 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.

**ROLL CALL:**

Council Members DeRosa, Council President Horvath, Lundy, Pizzella, Mayor Ruocco, (Borough Attorney Mark Madaio, BA Christopher Tietjen, Borough Clerk Denise Kohan) Absent: Council Members Escobar and Trochimiuk.

**PROMOTIONS/PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS -**

[Michael Merida](#) – Rockin’ Roots

Mayor John Ruocco

First order of business is recognition for Michael Merida owner of Rockin’ Roots, a recently opened restaurant in the Borough. Michael, a notable chef, recently beat Bobby Flay on the Food Network, and as such Mayor Ruocco felt he deserved special recognition as a business owner in the town of Hillsdale.

**OATH OF OFFICE/APPOINTMENTS:**

[Steven Cooke](#) – Hillsdale Volunteer Fire Dept Member

Fire Chief Tom Kelley

Mayor Ruocco said Steven is not here so he will be sworn in separately.

[Donald Carty](#) – Hillsdale Volunteer Fire Dept Member

Fire Chief Tom Kelley

Fire Chief Tom Kelly was responding to a fire call, so Donald was sworn in by Mayor Ruocco as a new member of the Hillsdale Volunteer Fire Department.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

There were no presentations at this time.

**INITIAL PUBLIC COMMENT** (Time limited, new topics only, one topic per speaker): Mayor Ruocco opened the Initial Public Comment at this time, seeing no one, moved on to the Approval of Minutes.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Council Meeting Minutes January 5, 2020 – Reorg Meeting

Motion by Council Member Lundy, Second by Council Member DeRosa, and unanimously carried.

**PROFESSIONALS REPORT/MONTHLY DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:**

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

[Hillsdale Police Department – February 2020](#)

Police Chief Robert Francaviglia

Police Chief Francaviglia said during the month of February there were 87 dispatching shifts, one covered by police officers, but no overtime. This past month we had 240 motor vehicle stops and 14 criminal arrests.

The Officer Wellness Program has commenced this past month and has been well received by our sworn officers.

Our new police officer is currently in field training and is slated to attend the Ocean County Police Academy going through an accelerated program to be fully PTC certified. When he returns, he will continue with his field training and shortly thereafter will be on the road by himself.

Mayor Ruocco asked in view of the fact that we are going for accreditation does training of officer's change in any way? Chief Francaviglia responded only when the policy is promulgated, at this point we haven't had that part yet, but there will be some changes. They will let us know when we get to the rules and regulations because the Council obviously will have to approve that as well, but we are not at that point yet.

At this time Mayor Ruocco recognized John Beatty with the Hillsdale Volunteer Ambulance, as John was not on the agenda.

#### Hillsdale Volunteer Ambulance

Captain John Beatty

John apologized for not having been at the meetings in a while, but he had the Year End Captain's Report for 2019. The statistics are as follows: the police dispatch desk handled 1,180 dispatches for EMS assistance, of which 883 calls, or 75%, were responded to. Of the 883 calls, 452 (51%) were located in the neighboring communities of the Pascack Valley Mutual Aid System. There was a total of 728 requests for ambulances within the confines of Hillsdale. Of those calls, we were able to answer 59%, while the remaining calls were handled by Mutual Aid partners. Of all calls handled within Hillsdale, our volunteer ambulances of the Pascack Valley were able to handle 95% of all of the transports, with paid hospital support covering only 5%. Which is very favorable, it's actually a 3% decrease from 2018. The calls received accounted for upwards of 2,800 man- hours of actual service trips, but because we actually run scheduled trips, it accounted for approximately 25,000 scheduled man-hours on duty throughout the past year. Accounting for each person that was on and the number of hours that they rode. Our average in-service time from all calls from dispatch to responding is 6 minutes 8 seconds, that's for the ambulance actually leaving the building with a full crew ready to go; and our average time from dispatch to on scene is 9 minutes 50 seconds. That average factors in all towns, all locations that we go to. We had one response that was 21 minutes because we were responding to the far end of Montvale.

We currently have 44 members capable of being scheduled for shifts, 39 of which are EMT's. However, 18 of that number are currently on leave of one form or another; for college, other advanced degrees or personal medical leave. This leaves just 26 members riding shifts on a consistent basis, of which 21 are EMT's. In the past year we welcomed 6 new EMT's, 3 of which are under the age of 18, so they are cadets in the eyes of the State, and in the eyes of our Corp. We're also happy to report that we currently have 10 new members enrolled in EMT school as we speak. Unfortunately, 8 of them are under the age of 18. So, they do not qualify in the eyes of the State as completing an ambulance crew, we still need 2 people, 18 and above, in order to let the ambulance, go. So, we are definitely in need of new adult members and increased staffing on daytime shifts. So as always, if you know anyone, please send them our way. Even if it's a member of the fire department, police department etc. They could join as drivers. Our by-laws state that in order to be a driver, you can't just be a random person off the street. We try to keep people from just playing with the lights and sirens because they want to. So instead we tend to take people who are already in the field of emergency services or service to others. Training is available in the night and day throughout the spring and fall. And it's also an intensive daytime summer course, which is about six weeks long. It's great for high school aged students and college age students. It is not great for your average person. The course is 40 hours a week, about seven hours a day.

Also, in 2019, our agency finally purchased a new ambulance. This was purchased through our own expense account and savings accounts after many years of additional fundraising and cost cutting to the Corp. The ambulance is a 2019 Ford F 450 Braun Liberty model. We are still in the process of selling our previous decommissioned ambulance, as our agency does not have a need for the unit nor the money needed to outfit it and make it fully operational again. In order to be able to afford our new ambulance, we actually have to sell our old structure. So, we wouldn't even be able to turn it into a second ambulance if we had a second call because it doesn't have the proper equipment. We also purchased the new stretcher operating system that has significantly aided our occupational safety. This system is capable of lifting up to a 700 lb. patient into the ambulance using hydraulic lifts rather than our members and police officers having to bear that weight during the loading process. The system itself cost \$45,000, which was purchased via a three-year financing option, as our agency was unable to pay the bill outright. So, we actually do have two remaining payments ahead of us, one this year and one next year, each for a third of the price.

We are also evaluating the purchase of new portable radios for our ambulance, and potentially officers, to be able

to better provide service to the community. We currently have radios that are about 10 plus years old. The models themselves have been discontinued, therefore, if any parts break there's nothing we can do we have to replace them no matter what. So, we have been in talks with the finance committee and Borough Administrator to discuss Borough support and expenditures our agency has this upcoming year. Hopefully, we can work together to adequately cover our financial needs, and not sacrifice service to the community.

We would also like to thank all agencies that responded to the multiple alarm house fire in Westwood, which left six members of our fire department with, as the newspaper reported, bumps and bruises. The collapse that occurred could have been significantly worse, but luckily our members were able to escape with minor injuries. The ambulances that responded that day from far and wide to assist when the call went out, came because they heard that firefighters were injured. Our agency did not personally take any of the Hillsdale firefighters to the hospital. But we were the first ambulance on scene that morning in Westwood.

Our two-women crew setup triage and rehab for firefighters on scene and ended up evaluating many of the firefighters that were in active service at that fire throughout the morning, along with the local hospital paramedics that had been called.

Lastly, we'd like to note that our annual beef-steak dinner and tricky tray is scheduled for May 16, from 6pm to 10pm. at St. John's parish center. Tickets are going to be available shortly, so if anyone knows people who would like to go please contact us. If anyone knows any businesses that would like to participate by donating raffle baskets or other tricky tray items, they could let us know.

As the Ambulance Captain, I should mention the hot topic item of coronavirus. We have been briefed by the County and the State on the coronavirus potential outbreak and how it's basically affecting the United States and New Jersey as a whole. As has been reported in many newspaper articles and news reports, actual materials like breathing apparatus masks, N95 respirators, are flying off the shelves. We actually have contacted several different medical supply vendors, and the N95 respirator masks are on a four to eight-week backorder. So, if there were to be a true outbreak tomorrow, it would be bad. But that's because they're disappearing everywhere, so we have been in talks with the County. They do have stockpiles of materials, technically that are supposed to be only given out for mass casualty incidents. It has not reached that point yet, as far as we know, therefore, they have not opened up these storage containers and said, ambulance corps show up and take the supplies that you need. But that is an option that eventually could be there if we were to need it. So, we're letting you know, we're doing everything we can to stay aware of the potential crisis. The main thing is, though, with calls screening with the police department through our dispatch center, making sure that if there's a potential COVID19 patient that we're responding to we have that communication, so that we're not walking in blindly to what we're getting.

Council Member Horvath asked is there some sort of training that is required for the drivers?

John Beatty: In order to be a driver, our members are required to take a course called CEVO - Coaching the Emergency Vehicle Operator, which myself and one of our other members actually paid to get certified as trainers last year. So, we can actually now host our own in-house training, get people to certification through the National Safety Council. That course itself is only about five or six hours. We've done it for a few towns already. It's like a Saturday morning, and you're out by one.

Council Member Horvath asked if that opportunity is basically available just for people who work in town?

John Beatty: Yes, so any Borough employee is eligible to come in and interview and see what it's about. Same thing with DPW employees, we used to have some of the DPW members as drivers. So we would love to be able to employ that prospect again, to be able to use them to help us get out the door.

We're down to, on day crews, a total of about five or six people who are able to take day shifts out of that 21-22 number that I mentioned, but the issue is those five or six are not all available on the same day of the week. So there are times where I don't have a crew. I have one person sitting around who could be out the door on the ambulance call, but I don't have anyone else to go with him.

Mayor Ruocco asked that of all the stats that you were reciting earlier, what's the probability when a Hillsdale resident calls that your ambulance will go to them? Have you calculated that? It could be an unfair question, but I know from all the numbers that you might have that.

John Beatty: We don't necessarily know. We are available, i.e. our ambulances, staff, probably close to 60% of

the time of the month, between nights, weekends and days. I would guess 60% of the time, they would get us. There are times where we are available, but we're called to another town servicing one of their residents, when our residents are unable to get that aid. So sometimes they'll get a paid ambulance from local hospitals. The only complication that is becoming an issue are wait times. There was actually a recent article about Pennsylvania where this happened. People are waiting upwards of an hour for an ambulance to show up. And I recently did hear a call around here that went up to about an hour before an ambulance actually showed up on scene. It wasn't in Hillsdale. So no, no residents need worry about that. But yes, it is getting to that point where someone is calling, they can't get one town, they can't get the next town. They try to go to the hospitals; the hospitals don't have anybody. So that's kind of where it's at. The hospitals themselves have already said they don't have the manpower, or infrastructure to take over all these towns. So, they don't want the volunteers to disappear. They want us to survive as much as possible, because they know they can't handle it all.

Council Member DeRosa asked that overview about the model right now of every town having its own ambulance and being able to staff them, it's just not working anymore right?

John Beatty: Yes, probably the biggest complication is all the agencies are struggling. So, we might have a day where we've got one member and another town has one member, but there's no plan in place for those two members to become a new crew. I've been talking to the Borough Administrator and Council Member DeRosa in regards to a new plan, potentially with Westwood, where the Mayor and Council would basically sign off on paperwork that says members of Westwood can ride on our ambulance and vice versa. Their Mayor and Council would also have to countersign so that we're dually covered in terms of insurance, JIF, etc. So that would hopefully allow us to start to interoperate a little bit better and get us out that more often. Down the line, it would make more sense for a lot of these agencies to no longer be single entities. But that's a strong conversation that needs to happen.

Mayor Ruocco stated that the Captain's been a little modest, he's actually been at the forefront of trying to lead a movement for people to recognize this and partner with other agencies. And as you said, personally, it doesn't matter what town's name you have on your jacket, you are in it just to help people so you don't care which town is responding, as long as there's enough people to respond.

John Beatty replied that this is correct. We in Hillsdale Ambulance take members from anywhere, if you want to serve the community, we will let you do everything possible to serve the community. I don't care what town is on the back of my shirt. If it says Pascack Valley EMS or it says Hillsdale EMS it makes no difference to me. I think that's just something that needs to potentially happen in the future. So anything that the Mayors Association has, in terms of conversations with each other, to potentially lead that down the line, because a lot of the agencies are single ambulance companies, when our ambulance is out of service we're out. When we're out the door with our one ambulance and another call comes in to Hillsdale there's nothing that we can do about it because we're already on another call. Agencies like Tri-Borough that cover three towns, when another call comes in for one of their towns, they have a chance of handling themselves because they have three ambulances, they have more manpower to do it. So our residents are unprotected by us by having this single ambulance model potentially.

Council Member Horvath asked if Beatty could expand on the concept that the service is free. The ambulance crew and all the people associated with it are not paid, so this is one of the reasons the volunteers are such a big deal and whatever can be done to help finance this operation would go a long way. I mean, it's extremely expensive when you bring in paid services.

The average bill for a paid ambulance right now is probably close to \$1,600. If you have insurance, that might get billed to your insurance company, but if your insurance company decides that your medical condition didn't meet the need for an ambulance, they might deny the claim. There was a huge story on NBC News, people's claims being denied by insurance companies. So now people are on the hook for that \$1,600. If we ever bring you to the hospital, you're not going to see a bill from us. You might get a bill, but please make sure you read what the header says. Because it might be from the hospitals. We've actually had people who contact us wondering why we're billing them. It has the hospital name on top of it, but they know they were in our ambulance. Well, sometimes when we're taking a patient to a hospital, we have paramedics from the hospital. So those paramedics still reserve the right to bill for their services, not ours. So sometimes they are getting a bill. But we see none of that money, that's all going to the hospital. It's all going to reimburse their costs. Every patient, though, that does set foot in our ambulance, or that we lay hands on to evaluate, will eventually receive a letter from us, basically explaining that we were the ambulance that served them, some information about our statistics, along with a

patient follow up report. I take that very seriously; I get the paperwork back if they fill it out. It has the call number so I can do quality assurance with my crews to make sure that the crews were respectful of the patient, that they knew what they were doing, or they didn't know what they were doing, etc. Then in that same letter, we'll talk about that this is not a bill but if people feel inclined to send a donation, but that would be great.

Council Member Horvath thanked Beatty for his service and thanked everyone else for their service.

Hillsdale Volunteer Fire Department  
Chief Tom Kelley

Just to back up to John for a second. Those in the know, counting me, know that he's on the forefront of keeping the Hillsdale Ambulance staffed as well as he does. He does a great job with everything. As to his point of what it costs, you know that I had an emergency in Rockland County and it was \$1,680 for the ambulance, so he's right there on how much it costs. It's expensive and those guys do a great job and they don't charge anything, so thank you John and your guys.

Pretty simple report we're just waiting for the budget to get done tonight and hopefully start moving forward on our items that we need to start moving ahead. I thank you guys for your help in the process of the budget this year. Everything seemed to go well.

Last week we had a pretty severe incident where, thankfully, everyone came out okay. As we said earlier, bumps and bruises but that's really about it. A bunch of sore people and a highly stressed out Chief. But that's all stuff we can get through. We actually had on a Facebook post over 45,000 people see our posts and comment. Hundreds and hundreds of comments from people in the public at large is just fantastic in the way they respond to our guys. I can't thank everybody enough for all the support that we get. You know, the people in this town are our friends and family and everyone is great. I can't say enough about it. But my guys work hard. They do good work, and I thank them for everything they do. That that's all I have. Anybody have any questions? Okay, thank you, appreciate it.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- Councilman - Anthony DeRosa
- Council President – Zoltan Horvath
- Councilwoman - Abby Lundy
- Councilman – Frank Pizzella

Council Member DeRosa said to flow into what John Beatty was talking about, the Ambulance Committee which is himself, Council Member Horvath, and Council Member Lundy, met with Captain Beatty and Joseph Patti, President, to talk about the sustainability of the model and also the agreement that we are probably going to see at the next meeting. I just didn't want Council to be surprised by it, but it's modeled after another town's agreement. It's been vetted by the Borough Administrator with our risk assessment group, as far as any liability goes and it was cleared. So, I actually joined by phone, we had a big conversation about budget, about possibly funding radios not just for the rig, but also for personnel. He then asked Borough Administrator Tietjen if he was right that the resolution would be on for the next meeting. BA Tietjen said he was not sure as he hasn't been able to reach the Westwood Administrator because he is out on medical leave, and as soon as he is able to reach him, he'll be able to bring that before Council. We're all good to go and obviously he assumes Westwood will be agreeable, and we should be good to go. Recreation Commission meets this Thursday, no report on that. Naming and Recognition Committee are to meet again. Superintendent of the DPW would like to make a presentation and suggests that we name the new recycling center area at DPW after a long term DPW worker, so he's going to make that case before the committee to consider that, and it looks as though we will have a sign for Neil Hering to unveil at the fishing contest on April 18.

Council Member Horvath said he had a very brief report, the Hillsdale seniors will have a painting session at the Uptown Art in Westwood from 10am to 12pm on Thursday, and the fun continues for them.

Council Member Lundy is going to forego her reports tonight.

Council Member Pizzella just wanted to let everyone know that Access for All Committee is really trying to get better known in the community so if you could think of anywhere that you believe they could play a role, please let us know they'll show up. They'll come up with table, brochures and everything. The Environmental

Commission, he looked and doesn't see a tree Ordinance, so he asked Mark Madaio, Borough Attorney, if he could resend it. Once he gives it to the Environmental Commission for review, if they have no further comments, what's the next step. Mark said he would like Chris Statile to weigh in on it, to make sure that it's enforceable from his perspective during the zoning review process, etc. Possibly get Nylema's opinion, make sure Council has it and of course if the Council has any ideas and if it benefits the Council's pleasure, we can put it on the agenda for an introduction.

The last thing is the Economic Redevelopment Committee. We have plans to meet with Waste Management next week, and that is going to be our first meeting with them in a very long time. We're going to try to determine where they are with their property and if they still plan on leaving the town once they get the value of their property through some sort of development deal. We also have a draft calendar, and there's also a test draft that I'm going to send to everyone. And then there are other things that I have to discuss in closed session.

Mayor Ruocco commented to Council Member Pizzella that he sends out emails for the meetings coming up. Just a reminder, could you just make sure that if someone isn't coming, that they do know there is a meeting. I think the last meeting you had on Thursday or Friday at your house. I wouldn't have been able to attend anyway. But I didn't even know about the meeting, so if you could just make sure that you follow the bylaws and let me know that there will be a meeting and give me some time to say yes or no.

That completes committee reports, but Mayor Ruocco had a couple of things he wanted to add. Coronavirus – The Administrator, myself and Hillsdale Police Chief Francaviglia, sat in on the Governor's conference call. There are no confirmed cases in New Jersey, yet, but it seems that it's likely that over the next three months we will have quite a few. I've been hearing from experts that 40% - 60% of Americans are expected to eventually come down with it. 98% or more will survive. That's not very comforting for the other 2%. But there are different patterns the way this virus affects people. Apparently for young people, infants and children they seem to have no problem getting over it. For the elderly, it's a different story. So, I think we as a community need to be prepared, as it varies in intensity. Anyone who has a compromised respiratory system probably is at a higher risk, whether you be young or old. The governor pointed to CDC guidance, he's in close coordination with the federal authorities on this. They're following the same guidance that we would follow for the prevention of influenza at the moment, which is wash your hands. Don't touch your eyes, nose, mouth, cough into your elbow. Don't shake hands or do fist pumps, don't travel to certain countries. We do see exposure to crowds' masks do little good, unless you're the infected one then you should wear a mask so that you prevent the spread of it, call your doctor if you develop flu like symptoms. If infected you're expected to self-quarantine. I think if this does become a pandemic, there'll be more guidance that is going to be coming out from the CDC and from the State health officials. Northwest Bergen has provided information to Chief Francaviglia about proper precautions, which basically will be the ones I've mentioned. It also highlighted for me the importance of our police and our ambulance being prepared for the eventuality that they may be moving into a situation where someone does have the virus and they need to be prepared, as John Beatty was talking about earlier.

I spoke with the school Superintendent, last week, each district has already put out emails to the families of all school kids. Preparations are being made in conjunction with the New Jersey Department of Education, and prevention has been the focus thus far. Schools are undergoing extensive additional cleanings and local schools have been stressing more ventilation when possible. It's been a warm end-of-winter, they've been opening up the windows more. The stress has been in the message to the families. If the child is sick, keep them home. Don't send them to school. There is some concern on the school-break coming up. As parents travel, the educators are thinking about trying to get a better handle on where the students are traveling to.

I think the high school is well positioned, and talking to Mr. Gunderson, if they have to close the high school for a period of time, they're prepared for remote classroom. They've been through this drill a couple times in prior years, it's been successful. So I think he feels pretty comfortable about that particular aspect of his response plan.

Another thing I want to talk about is Hillsdale is going to be introducing a new bus service to New York City. HIP, which is a private bus company based out of Israel, to serve Hillsdale commuters heading to and from New York City, during the rush hour, only weekdays. The company already serves several Pascack Valley towns. It also serves Cresskill and Tenafly. The new bus route will originate in Hillsdale and then it will run down into Westwood, Emerson, Oradell, then express into New York City, where they drop you off at the Port Authority. Then in the evening, they will pick you up. There will only be about five or six runs in the morning going down, five or six runs coming home in the afternoon. It is an application driven system. So, you download the app to

your phone, you can reserve a seat, you can pay online and you can monitor your bus on the app, as it's approaching. They've got a good record of on-time performance and extremely comfortable equipment. The Mayors at our monthly meeting had the opportunity to board one of the buses, extremely modern and new, none of the equipment is more than three years old, they make a point of rotating the new equipment into the service. The fare is about 25% higher than Coach USA charges, but they offer bulk discount. So, if you're getting a 30-day pass it does come down to about the price of a Coach USA trip into New York. The pick up in Hillsdale will be at the West Commuter Lot and they're exploring other spots as well. With the help of the Borough Administrator he has been talking to the people at HIP, so we probably have an expectation of maybe one or two other spots in the coming months. This service has been very well received by Montvale, Woodcliff Lake, Park Ridge and Washington Township residents. So now the southern part of the Pascack Valley Westwood, Emerson, Oradell and Hillsdale are going to engage in this. Likely kickoff is going to be March 13, so we're not talking far away. This company is quick, very agile and quick to get going. And hopefully it will provide competition for Coach USA, who's service from personal experience, as well as from comments residents have made to me, sometimes lags, so competition is good. I think this will be a good addition for a way to get into New York.

Finally, I got a request from an Associate Professor who teaches at James Madison University in Virginia, who is also the chair of the Bergen County Historical Society Preservation Committee. He sent me an email late last week requesting recognition of Jackie Robinson's number 42 on our baseball fields. He asked if this were in existence now, I said no, but that I would present the idea to the Council. I have the email, I'd like to refer it to you, Anthony, for consideration with the Recreation Committee. Maybe we can then discuss it at a subsequent council meeting. Council Member DeRosa asked if the email makes suggestions how that should be done, Mayor Ruocco responded that he showed him a picture of just the number 42 on a field fence. I don't think he's wedded to any particular way to do it, but his goal is to recognize the accomplishments that Jackie Robinson achieved when he was the first African American to be integrated into Major League Baseball. Anthony asked if this was Hillsdale centric, and Mayor responded he thinks he has done this in other areas as well. He did a little research on the Associate Professor, he think's he's a young guy, but he doesn't know what he teaches at James Madison University. But while it may be a really worthy suggestion, it may not be possible. There may be reasons why we don't want to do it, but I think given the accomplishments of Mr. Robinson, it's certainly something I think we should consider. We'll send the message to the community at large, as well. So that's all I have to say on my committee reports

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **BUDGET PRESENTATION**

[2020 Budget Presentation](#)

[Backup](#)

Councilwoman/Finance Chairperson Abby Lundy

Councilwoman Lundy stated that first, I would like to thank the Finance Committee, Mayor Ruocco, Council Member Trochimiuk, Borough Administrator Tietjen and CMFO Sireci for their help. Also, all of the department heads and the auditing firm of Garbarini & Co. and his staff.

We had a lot of meetings throughout the months of January and February and I have to say I think this process went very smoothly this year, so thank you for all your help.

If anybody looked at this beforehand, this is a pie chart summarizing the Revenues for the year. So, the total revenue is \$15.4MM, which is up \$832K from the prior year. Of that revenue, \$9.6MM is raised through taxes, which is an increase of about \$202K over last year. Then this pie chart breaks out all of the revenue sources. If anybody wants me to go through each one I can, but it's pretty clearly labeled in the pie chart. The next slide goes into a little more detail of the revenue factors. For the fourth year in a row our State aid has remained constant. We have about a 25% increase in local revenues, which includes interest, police administration fees, fees collected for our communications towers. There's also a slight increase in miscellaneous revenue and a very effective use of fund balance, which is surplus essentially generated from prior years.

Next are our Appropriations. Appropriations are our expenses, what we spent the money on. This pie chart summarizes how the appropriations are split. Our largest appropriation is public safety, that's our Police, Fire, EMS and DPW; basically, the departments that have heavy equipment, expensive equipment. There's Other Appropriations, which is 11%. What's in Other is Reserve for Uncollected Taxes, Construction Code

Enforcement, Public Health, Assistance, Environment, Contingencies, Accumulated Absences, LOSAP for Volunteers, Planning Board, and any kind of Shared Services or grants offset by revenue.

If anyone has any questions, please feel free to stop me.

Our overall Appropriations were increased by \$832K. Of that we've increased our Capital Improvement Fund by \$547K, an increase in our General Government, which is just an allocation of some salaries, Public Safety, DPW and Parks and Recreation.

Then we get to our Capital Budget. As I said, the Capital Improvement Fund was increased by \$547K. Included in our Capital Budget this year are some purchases and projects such as improvements to Centennial Field, part of which is funded through a grant. The DPW will be purchasing a front-end loader, which is a very versatile piece of equipment, which can be used for leaf pickups, snow removal, pickup of branches and debris. So it's not just a one-trick piece of equipment, it is very versatile. We'll be upgrading our portable radios for emergency responders and purchasing some new video equipment to monitor Beechwood Park, as well as adding flashing stop signs and pedestrian crossing signs to increase the safety for the residents in town. There will be a purchase of a new police vehicle. Right now, we're not finalized, our 2020 Municipal Road Program, but it looks like they're about 14 streets, and there have already been some improvements started here at Borough Hall, both in the interior and exterior.

Next is Debt. This year there is no increase in our debt. And despite the significant capital program that we have in place, and improvements to our infrastructure, we are not increasing our debt we are continuing to pay down our debt. We decreased our debt by \$460K last year, and we have a budgeted reduction of \$475K for this upcoming year, as well as paying \$90K on our BAN. So, Hillsdale continues to be in a very favorable debt position.

So bottom line is what this all means for the taxpayer.

As I said, the amount raised for the municipality through taxes is \$9.6MM, as compared to \$9.4MM last year. How it affects the multiple tax rate, it's a 1.73% increase over last year. So, for every \$100 of assessed value on your home, on the average home, it's a \$0.57 increase, last year it was \$0.5599 cent, rounded up to \$0.56, or a \$0.01 increase. And the tax on the average assessed home, which is based on the assessed value, the assessed value went up a little bit this year. The average tax is \$2,654.49, which is a \$52 increase over last year, just under 2%, a 1.99% increase.

Mayor Ruocco replied with so this is a \$52 increase on the average home over last year. \$547K above last year for capital improvement. And the BAN \$90K paid off of debt, was that from when we bought the DPW equipment? Councilwoman Lundy responded that no, that was originally purchased a while back.

Council Member DeRosa asked If he wanted a breakdown how the conclusions were reached as to these figures, is that going to be available to me? As to how it was budgeted and why it was budgeted, where the monies are coming from and where the monies are going? I would like a more detailed description.

Council Member Lundy responded that this whole budget document, which has all of the accounts.

Mayor Ruocco stated that he thinks he has some comments that may help you understand better, because this was the first time that I worked with a new Borough Administrator and a new CFO on the budget and I think it all went smoothly. I wanted to thank Councilwoman Lundy, Councilwoman Trochimiuk, Councilman Escobar for letting me sit on the Finance Committee, he did not attend those meetings.

So, every year when Hillsdale does its budget it has four major sources. I'll just talk a little bit from the high level. Abby got in her presentation, as the chairwoman of the Finance Committee, what the taxpayers really want to know. What the rate of increase is. But the four major sources of income for any town are the Taxation, State Aid, Revenue from Fees, what we draw down from accumulated savings, which we call Surplus. And as Abby mentioned, State Aid, which is a constant, it hasn't changed at all in years. So that's a dead issue in the water. If we were operating in a corporate setting drawing down from Surplus, or what I would call Capital, it would be frowned upon. But in municipal accounting because towns typically budget appropriations generously to cover all potential expenses and then they usually don't need to spend all those appropriations, Surplus is generated during the year. That's a good thing because that surplus replaces any surplus that was used in the budget process in the beginning of the year to cover expected expenses, or as Abby said Appropriations, they are the same. The

first two sources of revenue that I mentioned, the State Aid and Revenue from Fees, they're not the guidance, and the State, as I said has frozen their aid for years, and Revenue from Fees, is conservatively estimated, in fact we're limited by law in terms of how much we can actually put in, basically a function of what we earned the prior year.

The second two sources of income, Taxation and Surplus, are where the action is. And that's where the Finance Committee, especially the Borough Administrator and the CFO worked their magic. It's where the Council and the residents should be focused. This year the committee, in the open, really considered a range of options. We had good discussions with respect to the size of the municipal tax increase anywhere from 0% to 4%, we considered this. If we had budgeted to 0%, as we could have in each of the years prior to this, as long as I've been on Council, we would have put a strain on the Surplus account, we would have had to use more surplus to cover our appropriations.

If we had gone the other direction, with the bigger tax percent of 4% we would have reduced the need to draw down on Surplus, which, at the end of the year we would have \$4 million in Surplus. We would have generated a significant amount of cash that could be used to fund capital improvements. Said another way, it would have meant that we pay for capital items in 2020, and in future years, with more cash and less debt.

Knowing that high property taxes in this State are a big issue, and that relief from Trenton is virtually non-existent, the committee decided to take the middle course, which I think is a good thing. That's why the budget calls for raising taxes, but in an amount, somewhat less than last year. Abby was too modest, in terms of her presentation, because in the numbers that you quoted it's a little less than what we had to come up with last year. It still allows us to appropriate significantly to the Capital Improvement Fund and the amount of money injected into that fund this year is 78% more than that which was put in last year. We're putting in \$1.25MM, last year we put only \$700K in that fund. So, I think that was what Anthony was reacting to as well.

One area in the budget that is of some concern to me is the appropriations that have increased by \$832K roughly, but that's a 5.7% year-over-year increase. Contrast that with our operating revenues, they've only gone up about \$304K. So, the difference, about half a million dollars, has to be made up from drawdowns in surplus or from taxation. There's no other it's a closed system.

So, I asked myself. At the end of the budget process, what are the major drivers behind the growth and expenses, but one of them is the Capital Improvement Fund. And that's up \$547K and that'll go towards financing future capital improvements.

Police expenses and pension salaries, went up \$115K, General Administration and Financial Administration that went up, \$88K, and DPW went up \$67K. Those are the biggest pieces of that \$832K increase in appropriations. So, if Municipal property taxes in Hillsdale are going to continue to be tightly controlled, we need to tighten up on those expenses going forward.

There is some relief down the road, as we're going to benefit in 2021 or 2022, when we will retire our long-term bond. We'll make the last payment that will give us relief. But my message to the Council is that this is a good budget for the time, but we have to be vigilant to control expenses in the future. That's all I have to say about the budget.

## **BUDGET ORDINANCES**

### **20-06 – Introduction**

#### **Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a Cap Bank (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)**

**WHEREAS**, the Local Government Cap Law, N.J.S. 40A: 4-45.1 et seq., provides that in the preparation of its annual budget, a municipality shall limit any increase in said budget up to 2.5% unless authorized by ordinance to increase it to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, subject to certain exceptions; and,

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.15a provides that a municipality may, when authorized by ordinance, appropriate the difference between the amount of its actual final appropriation and the 3.5% percentage rate as an exception to its final appropriations in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hillsdale in the County of Bergen finds it advisable and necessary to increase its CY 2020 budget by up to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, in the interest of promoting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council hereby determines that a 1% increase in the budget for said year, amounting to \$104,191 in excess of the increase in final appropriations otherwise permitted by the Local Government Cap Law, is advisable and necessary; and,

**WHEREAS** the Mayor and Council hereby determines that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED**, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough, in the County of Bergen, a majority of the full authorized membership of this governing body affirmatively concurring, that, in the CY 2020 budget year, the final appropriations of the Borough shall, in accordance with this ordinance and N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14, be increased by 3.5%, amounting to \$364,669, and that the CY 2020 municipal budget for the Borough be approved and adopted in accordance with this ordinance; and,

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, that a certified copy of this ordinance as introduced be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services within 5 days of introduction; and,

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, that a certified copy of this ordinance upon adoption, with the recorded vote included thereon, be filed with said Director within 5 days after such adoption.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that Ordinance No. 20-06 does now pass a first reading and that said Ordinance be further considered for final passage at a meeting of the Mayor and Council in the Municipal Building, 380 Hillsdale Avenue, Hillsdale, New Jersey, on April 7, 2020 and at said time and place all persons interested will be given an opportunity to be heard concerning the same, and the Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to publish said ordinance in the Ridgewood News once, at least one week prior to said hearing, with a notice of its introduction and of the time and place, when and where said ordinance would be considered for final passage.

Mayor Ruocco said this is a routine ordinance that we pass every year to give us more flexibility in dealing with the budget, it is permitted by law.

Motion by Council Member Lundy, Second by Council Member DeRosa

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Council President Horvath, Council Members Lundy, DeRosa and Pizzella Nays: None

Absent: Council Member Escobar and Council Member Trochimiuk

## **BUDGET INTRODUCTION RESOLUTIONS**

[R20054](#) Governing Body Certification of Compliance with the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's Enforcement Guidance on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in Employment Decisions under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-5 as amended by P.L. 2017, c.183 requires the governing body of each municipality and county to certify that their local unit's hiring practices comply with the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's "Enforcement Guidance on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in Employment Decisions Under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964," *as amended*, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e *et seq.*, (April 25, 2012) before submitting its approved annual budget to the Division of Local Government Services in the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs; and

**WHEREAS**, the members of the governing body have familiarized themselves with the contents of the above-referenced enforcement guidance and with their local unit's hiring practices as they pertain to the consideration of an individual's criminal history, as evidenced by the group affidavit form of the governing body attached hereto.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hillsdale, hereby states that it has complied with N.J.S.A. 40A:4-5, as amended by P.L. 2017, c.183, by certifying that the local unit's hiring practices comply with the above-referenced enforcement guidance and hereby directs the Clerk to cause to be maintained and available for inspection a certified copy of this resolution and the required affidavit to show evidence of said compliance.

Motion by Council Member Lundy, Second by Council Member DeRosa

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Council President Horvath, Council Members Lundy, DeRosa and Pizzella Nays: None

Absent: Council Member Escobar and Council Member Trochimiuk

[R20055](#) Self Examination of Budget

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-78b has authorized the Local Finance Board to adopt rules that permit municipalities in sound fiscal condition to assume the responsibility, normally granted to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services, of conducting the annual budget examination; and

**WHEREAS**, N.J.A.C. 5:30-7 was adopted by the Local Finance Board on February 11, 1997; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:30-7.2 through 7.5, the BOROUGH of HILLSDALE has been declared eligible to participate in the program by the Division of Local government Services, and the Chief Financial officer has determined that the local government meets the necessary conditions to participate in the program for the 2020 budget year.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the governing body of the BOROUGH of HILLSDALE that in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:30-7.6a & 7.6b and based upon the Chief Financial Officer's certification, the governing body has found the budget has met the following requirements:

1. That with reference to the following items, the amounts have been calculated pursuant to law and appropriated as such in the budget:

- a. Payment of interest and debt redemption charges
- b. Deferred charges and statutory expenditures
- c. Cash deficit of preceding year
- d. Reserve for uncollected taxes
- e. Other reserves and non-disbursement items
- f. Any inclusions of amounts required for school purposes.

2. That the provisions relating to limitation on increases of appropriations pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.2 and appropriations for exceptions to limits on appropriations found at N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.3 et seq., are fully met (complies with CAP law).

3. That the budget is in such form, arrangement, and content as required by the Local Budget Law and N.J.A.C. 5:30-4 and 5:30-5.

4. That pursuant to the Local Budget Law:

- a. All estimates of revenue are reasonable, accurate and correctly stated,
- b. Items of appropriation are properly set forth
- c. In itemization, form, arrangement and content, the budget will permit the exercise of the comptroller function within the municipality.

5. The budget and associated amendments have been introduced and publicly advertised in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Local Budget Law, except that failure to meet the deadlines of N.J.S.A. 40A:4-5 shall not prevent such certification.

6. That all other applicable statutory requirements have been fulfilled.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution will be forwarded to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services upon adoption.

Motion by Council Member Lundy, Second by Council Member DeRosa

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Council President Horvath, Council Members Lundy, DeRosa and Pizzella Nays: None

Absent: Council Member Escobar and Council Member Trochimiuk

[R20056](#) Introduction of 2020 Budget  
- [Introduced 2020 Budget](#)

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the following statement of revenues and appropriations attached hereto constitute the local Budget of the Borough of Hillsdale, Bergen County, New Jersey for the year 2020.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the said budget be published in the Ridgewood News in the issue of March 13, 2020 and that a hearing on the Budget will be held at the Municipal Building on April 7, 2020 at 8:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter may be reached.

Motion by Council Member Lundy, Second by Council Member DeRosa

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Council President Horvath, Council Members Lundy, DeRosa and Pizzella Nays: None

Absent: Council Member Escobar and Council Member Trochimiuk

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

1. [Letter dated February 11, 2020 from “Go the Distance for Autism” requesting the Hillsdale Police support for their ride through various towns including Hillsdale.](#)

Motion to approve, receipt and file by Council President Horvath, Second by Council Member Lundy, and unanimously carried.

2. [Letter dated February 7, 2020 from the Sundial Garden Club requesting to have their Annual Mother’s Day Plant Sale on May 9, 2020.](#)

Motion to approve, receipt and file by Council President Horvath, Second by Council Member Lundy, and unanimously carried.

3. [Special Event Permit submitted by GGW School Spirit Committee – Richard Pasciuto/Korrey Sanjek for permission to hold a Jog-a-Thon/Walk-A-Thon on April 19, 2020 with a Rain Date of April 26, 2020 from Set up time of 8:00 am – 2:00 pm at George White School](#)

Motion to approve, receipt and file by Council President Horvath, Second by Council Member Lundy, and unanimously carried.

**DISCUSSION:**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Mayor Ruocco opened the Public Comment portion of the meeting to the public inviting anyone who wished to speak to come forward, seeing no one, the Public Comment portion was closed.

**ORDINANCES: Adoptions/Introductions:**

**20-04 – Adoption**

**An Ordinance to Amend and Supplement Ordinance 09-01 Chapter 138 “Fees” and Chapter 71 Swimming Pool Commission**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Hillsdale as follows:

**SECTION 1:** Chapter 138 of the Code of the Borough of Hillsdale is amended and supplemented to include membership fees in the following schedule and definition:

**CHAPTER 71, Swimming Pool Commission**

**RATES FOR 2020**

RESIDENTS-	PRICE	***RESIDENTS volunteers discount 25%	PRICE
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TYPE	On or	6-May	After	TYPE	On or	6-May	After
	Before				Before		
	5-May	29-May	29-May		5-May	29-May	29-May
A. Family of Two	\$575.00	\$605.00	\$635.00	A. Family of Two	\$431.00	\$454.00	\$476.00
B. Family (3 persons)	\$595.00	\$625.00	\$655.00	B. Family (3 persons)	\$446.00	\$469.00	\$491.00
C. Family (4-5 persons)	\$635.00	\$665.00	\$697.00	C. Family (4-5 persons)	\$476.00	\$491.00	\$523.00
D. Family (6-7 persons)	\$695.00	\$725.00	\$755.00	D. Family (6-7 persons)	\$521.00	\$544.00	\$566.00
E. Family (8+)	\$755.00	\$785.00	\$815.00	E. Family 8+	\$566.00	\$589.00	\$611.00
F. The Graduate (18-25)	\$349.00	\$379.00	\$409.00	F. The Graduate (18-25)	\$262.00	\$284.00	\$307.00
G. Young Professional (26-49)	\$399.00	\$429.00	\$459.00	G. Young Professional (26-49)	\$299.00	\$322.00	\$344.00
H. Empty Nester (50-61)	\$300.00	\$330.00	\$360.00	H. Empty Nester (50-61)	\$225.00	\$248.00	\$270.00
I. Senior Citizen 1 (62+)	\$235.00	\$265.00	\$295.00	I. Senior Citizen 1 (62+)	\$176.00	\$199.00	\$221.00
J. Senior Citizen 2 (62+)	\$340.00	\$370.00	\$400.00	J. Senior Citizen 2 (62+)	\$255.00	\$278.00	\$300.00

NON-RESIDENTS			PRICE	***NON-RESIDENTS discount 25%			PRICE
TYPE	On or	6-May	After	TYPE	On or	6-May	After
	Before				Before		
	5-May	29-May	29-May		5-May	29-May	29-May
A. Family of Two	\$775.00	\$805.00	\$835.00	A. Family of Two	\$581.00	\$604.00	\$626.00
B. Family (3 persons)	\$795.00	\$825.00	\$855.00	B. Family (3 persons)	\$596.00	\$619.00	\$641.00
C. Family (4-5 persons)	\$835.00	\$865.00	\$895.00	C. Family (4-5 persons)	\$626.00	\$649.00	\$671.00
D. Family (6-7 persons)	\$895.00	\$925.00	\$1025.00	D. Family (6-7 persons)	\$671.00	\$694.00	\$769.00
E. Family (8+ persons)	\$955.00	\$985.00	\$1085.00	E. Family (8+ persons)	\$716.00	\$739.00	\$814.00
F. The Graduate (18-25)	\$449.00	\$479.00	\$509.00	F. The Graduate (18-25)	\$337.00	\$359.00	\$382.00
G. Young Professional (26-49)	\$499.00	\$529.00	\$559.00	G. Young Professional (26-49)	\$374.00	\$397.00	\$419.00
H. Empty Nester (50-61)	\$400.00	\$430.00	\$460.00	H. Empty Nester (50-61)	\$300.00	\$323.00	\$345.00
I. Senior Citizen 1 (62+)	\$285.00	\$315.00	\$345.00	I. Senior Citizen 1 (62+)	\$214.00	\$236.00	\$259.00
J. Senior Citizen 2 (62+)	\$435.00	\$465.00	\$495.00	J. Senior Citizen 2 (62+)	\$326.00	\$349.00	\$371.00

\*\*\*\* VOLUNTEER:

Persons serving the Borough of Hillsdale, who are either elected or appointed to a Borough Board, Office, Department or commission and who require to take an oath of office.

Volunteers shall include but not limited to Mayor and Council, Fire Department, Dept. of Health, Environments Commission, Historian, Recreation Committee, Swimming Pool

Commission, Hillsdale Board of Education Members, Police Reserve and Ambulance

<b>Credit card convenience fee</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>Credit card convenience fee</b>	<b>3%</b>
Return check fee:	\$20.00	Return check fee:	\$20.00

**SECTION II:**

Chapter 71: "Swimming Pool Commission", Section 71-2 Members is hereby amended and supplemented as follows:

**MEMBERS:**

C. Compensation: The member of the commission shall serve without salary or other compensation for their service.

Excluded from the prohibition is membership rate afforded Borough Volunteers.

**SECTION III:**

Guest Pass Discount Book		\$75.00
Daily Guest Pass Adult (weekdays and weekends)		\$18.00
Daily Guest Pass Child (weekdays and weekends) Under 17		\$12.00
Daily Guest Pass Senior 62+		\$15.00
Private Lessons Members – 1 child ½ hour		\$35.00
Private Lessons Members – 2 children ½ hour		\$60.00
Private Lessons Non-Members - 1 child ½ hour		\$45.00
Private Lessons Non-Member – 2 children ½ hour		\$75.00
Group Swim Lessons Non-Members		\$85.00
Group Swim Lessons Members		\$75.00
Group Swim Lessons – Non-members		\$85.00
Group Swim Lesson – Camp day		\$70.00
Mommy and Me – Members		\$42.00
Mommy and Me – Non-Members		\$45.00
Fab Four – Members		\$50.00
Fab-Four Non-Members		\$55.00
Baby Sitter each (max 2 per family)		\$130.00
Swim team (must be a member)		\$85.00
Dive Team (must be a member)		\$65.00
Swim and Dive team Max		\$300.00
Group Dive Lessons		\$45.00
Group Dive Lessons – Non-member		\$50.00
Kids Korner Klub – Summer Dues		
(per child)		\$10.00
Kids Korner Klub – daily use (per child)		\$1.00
Chair Storage – Senior 62+		\$12.00
Camp Fees – HD & RV per camper		\$55.00
Ping Pong Balls each		\$00.25
ID Replacement	I	\$10.00
Swim team rental per lane per hour	I	\$25.00
Grandparent membership (must be sponsored by member)		\$160.00
	<b>MINIMUM</b>	<b>MAXIMUM</b>
Lounge Chair Rental – daily	\$5.00	\$20.00
Guppy Swim Camp per session	\$150.00	\$300.00
Spirit Wear Clothing	\$3.00	\$15.00
Selling of snack foods	\$1.00	\$50.00

Fin Fitness Camp, per week (ages 5-12)	\$100.00	\$300.00
Fitness Camp, per week – (adults 18+)	\$100.00	\$400.00
Water Polo (Adults 18+) per lane per hour	\$22.00	\$50.00
	<b>MINIMUM</b>	<b>MAXIMUM</b>
Dry Land Training – per hour	\$75.00	\$200.00
Scuba and Snorkel instruction (per person)	\$35.00	\$300.00
Aqua Aerobics (Members & Non-members) per class	\$10.00	\$50.00
Yoga (Members and Non—members) per class	\$10.00	\$50.00
Ladies Night, family night & other special events per person	\$10.00	\$65.00
Non-Hilldale Camp Parties (1 day – 3hrs)	\$300.00	\$1,200.00
Outside Private Swim/Dive Team Rental	\$4,000.00	\$40,000.00
Friday night’s 5-10 pm Non-members adults	\$15.00	\$20.00
Friday night’s 5-10 pm, Non-members child	\$10.00	\$12.00
Friday night’s 5-10 pm Non-members senior 62+	\$12.00	\$15.00

**PRIVATE PARTIES**

Parties till 8 pm (4 hours)	100 people	\$1000.00	\$1200.00
Parties till 8 pm (4 hours)	101-150 people	\$1300.00	\$1800
Parties till 8 pm (4 hours)	150-200 people	\$2000.00	\$3000.00
Parties till 8 pm (4 hours)	201-300 people	\$3500.00	\$4000.00
Parties after 8 pm to 11 pm	100 people	\$1200.00	\$1800.00
Parties after 8 pm to 11 pm	101-150 people	\$1900.00	\$2400.00
Parties after 8 pm to 11 pm	151-300 people	\$2500.00	\$3000.00
Parties after 8 pm to 11 pm	301-400 people	\$3200.00	\$3600.00
Parties after 8 pm to 11 pm	401-500 people	\$3700.00	\$4200.00
School Parties (4 hours)		\$975.00	\$1,200.00
Family Parties – Members (2 hours) club open evening		\$225.00	\$400.00
Birthday Parties, Members, club open (2 hours) daytime		\$80.00	\$600.00

New members only promotion of 10% to 20% off – one per family discount at designated open house or special promotions.

**\*NO REFUNDS ON ANY MEMBERSHIP AFTER MAY 27<sup>TH</sup>, 2020 – NO REFUNDS ON ANY PROGRAM OR PARTY FEES**

**SECTION IV:**

This ordinance shall take effect immediately after final passage, approval and publication of notice thereof as required by law, and the provisions of this ordinance shall be retroactive to January 1, 2020.

Motion to open public hearing on Ordinance 20-04 by Council President Horvath, Second by Council Member Lundy, and unanimously carried.

I will now open the meeting to the public. If anyone desires to be heard regarding Ordinance No. 20-04, please raise your hand to be recognized, come forward to the microphone and state your name and address for the record.

I will now entertain a motion that the public hearing on Ordinance No. 20-04 be closed and that it be resolved that this ordinance was posted on the bulletin board on which public notices are customarily posted and published in the Ridgewood News. Copies of said ordinance were made available to the general public.

Motion to close public hearing on Ordinance 20-04 by Council President Horvath, Second by Council Member Pizzella, and unanimously carried.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 20-04 by Council President Horvath, Second by Council Member Lundy, and unanimously carried.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that this ordinance is adopted and the Borough Clerk is authorized to advertise the same according to law.

**20-05 - Adoption**

**An Ordinance Establishing Salary Ranges for the Staff of the Hillsdale Swimming Pool Commission in the Borough of Hillsdale, county of Bergen, State of New Jersey**

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Hillsdale in the County of Bergen and State of New Jersey as follows:

**SECTION I:**

The Compensation of all personnel whose services are required for the operation, maintenance and regulation of the Facility as approved by the Swimming Pool Commission is as follows:

**SALARY RANGE**

<b><u>TITLE</u></b>	<b><u>MIN.</u></b>	<b><u>MAX.</u></b>
A. Manager/Director	\$32,000.00	\$52,000.00
B. First Assistant	\$8,000.00	\$15,000.00
C. Second Assistant	\$7,800.00	\$12,000.00
D. Third Assistant	\$7,000.00	\$ 9,000.00
E. Fourth Assistant	\$5,500.00	\$ 7,500.00
F. Office Manager	\$4,000.00	\$ 8,300.00
G. Maintenance Manager	\$3,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
H. Pre-Season Maintenance	\$ 11.00 hourly	\$ 17.00 hourly
I. Secretary/Office Staff	\$ 11.00 hourly	\$ 21.00 hourly

**SECTION II:**

**Trained Lifeguards:** Part time minimum age 15 years, Full time age 16 years. **Recreation:** Minimum age 14 years, **Gate:** Minimum age 15 years, Cashiers Minimum age 16 years. **Maintenance:** Minimum age 17 years.

<b><u>YEARS WORKED LIFEGUARDS</u></b>	<b><u>RANGE/HOURLY</u></b>		<b><u>GATE/REC.</u></b>	<b><u>RANGE/HOURLY</u></b>	
	<b><u>MIN.</u></b>	<b><u>MAX</u></b>		<b><u>MIN</u></b>	<b><u>MAX</u></b>
1.	\$8.00	\$8.50	1.	\$7.75	\$8.00
2.	\$8.50	\$8.75	2.	\$8.00	\$8.25
3.	\$8.75	\$9.00	3.	\$8.25	\$8.50
4.	\$9.00	\$9.25	4.	\$8.50	\$8.75
5.	\$9.25	\$9.75	5.	\$8.75	\$9.00
6.	\$9.75	\$10.00	6.	\$9.00	\$9.50
7.	\$10.00	\$10.50	7.	\$9.50	\$10.00
8.	\$10.50	\$11.50	8.	\$10.00	\$10.50
9.	\$11.50	\$12.50	9.	\$10.50	\$11.00
10.	\$12.50	\$13.50	10.	\$11.00	\$11.50

11. \$13.50	\$14.50	11.	\$11.50	\$12.50
12. \$14.50	\$15.50	12.	\$12.50	\$13.00

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>MIN</u>	<u>MAX</u>
J. Coordinator of Group swim lessons	\$750.00	\$2,000.00
K. Lifeguard safety instructor	\$900.00	\$1,500.00
L. Head Lifeguard	\$700.00	\$1,500.00
M. Business manager Swim/Dive	\$550.00	\$1,100.00
N. Gate Manager	\$600.00	\$1,000.00
O. Guppy Camp Director	\$2,000.00	\$3,200.00
P. Camp director	\$1,000.00	\$3,200.00
Q. Aqua Fin Fit Camp Director (kids 5-12)	\$700.00	\$1,100.00
R. Aquatic Fit Camp Director (18+)	\$700.00	\$1,100.00
S. Kids Korner Klub Level I Advanced	\$4,000.00	\$4,500.00
T. Kids Korner Klub Level II Intermediate	\$3,000.00	\$4,500.00
U. Kids Korner Klub Level III (preschool)	\$1,500.00	\$3,000.00

**SECTION III:**

A part time/substitute Life guard must earn at least \$4,000 the previous year to move up to full time.

**ADDITIONAL RATES:**

Certified lifeguard water safety instructor	\$1.75 hourly
Assistant life guard water safety instructor	\$0.75 hourly
CPR Instructor	\$1.25 hourly
EMT Certification	\$1.75 hourly
Certified Red Cross Lifeguard manager	\$1,000.00
Certified Red Cross Director manager	\$1,000.00
Certified Pool Operator -Hourly employee	\$2.00 hourly
Certified Pool Operator	\$1,500.00
Teach private swim lessons (1 child)	\$18.00 half hour
Teach private swim lessons (2 children)	\$22.00 half hour

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>MIN.</u>	<u>MAX</u>
Head Swim Coach	\$3,000.00	\$6,000.00
Head Dive Coach	\$2,000.00	\$4,500.00
Assistant Dive/Swim Coach Level 1	\$400.00	\$500.00
Assistant Dive/Swim Coach Level 2	\$500.00	\$600.00
Assistant Dive/Swim Coach Level 3	\$600.00	\$700.00
Assistant Dive/Swim Coach Level 4	\$700.00	\$800.00
Assistant Dive/Swim Coach Level 5	\$800.00	\$900.00
Yoga Instructor	\$300.00	\$800.00
Aqua Aerobics Instructor	\$350.00	\$900.00
Fall/Winter Help	\$13.00 hourly	\$15.00 hourly

**SECTION IV:**

The compensation fixed and determined by this ordinance for the persons holding the respective offices and positions of employment herein named, shall in lieu of all other fees, costs and charges received and collected by such officers and employees shall be remitted promptly to the Borough treasurer.

**SECTION V:**

All ordinances and resolutions inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed as to such inconsistencies.

**SECTION VI:**

This ordinance shall take effect immediately after final passage, approval and publications of notice. Thereof as required by law, and provisions of the ordinance shall be retroactive to January 1, 2020.

Motion to open public hearing on Ordinance 20-04 by Council Member DeRosa, Second by Council President Horvath.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Council Members Pizzella, DeRosa, Council President Horvath

Nays: None

Abstain: Council Member Lundy

Absent: Council Members Escobar and Trochimiuk

I will now open the meeting to the public. If anyone desires to be heard regarding Ordinance No. 20-05, please raise your hand to be recognized, come forward to the microphone and state your name and address for the record.

I will now entertain a motion that the public hearing on Ordinance No. 20-05 be closed and that it be resolved that this ordinance was posted on the bulletin board on which public notices are customarily posted and published in the Ridgewood News. Copies of said ordinance were made available to the general public.

Motion to close public hearing on Ordinance 20-05 by Council Member DeRosa, Second by Council President Horvath.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Council Members Pizzella, DeRosa, Council President Horvath

Nays: None

Abstain: Council Member Lundy

Absent: Council Members Escobar and Trochimiuk

Motion to adopt Ordinance 20-05 by Council Member DeRosa, Second by Council President Horvath.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Council Members Pizzella, DeRosa, Council President Horvath

Nays: None

Abstain: Council Member Lundy

Absent: Council Members Escobar and Trochimiuk

Now, therefore, be it resolved that this ordinance is adopted and the Borough Clerk is authorized to advertise the same according to law.

**RESOLUTIONS:(Consent Agenda): R20057 through R20063:**

[R20057](#) Resolution Accepting the Bid and Awarding the Contract for Stonybrook Swim Club Summer Pool Lease Program

[Bid Packet](#)

**WHEREAS**, on February 19, 2020, the Borough of Hillsdale received one (1) sealed bid for the Stonybrook Swim Club Summer Pool Lease Program; and

**WHEREAS**, Phoenix Aquatic Club USA, 139 Goebel Road New City, New York 10956 was the highest responsible bidder in the base bid amount of Thirty Three Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$33,000.00) for the use of the Swim Club Lap/Competition & Main Pools for Operation of a Summer Swim Program from April 15, 2020 to August 31, 2020 from 5:00 am to 9:00 am daily; and

**WHEREAS**, Borough Attorney has reviewed the bid package and found it to be in order and recommends that the contract be awarded to the highest bidder; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hillsdale, in the County of Bergen, New Jersey that the bid submitted by Phoenix Aquatic Club USA, 139 Goebel Road New City, New York 10956 for the Stonybrook Swim Club Summer Pool Lease Program, be accepted and it be awarded the contract, in a contract amount of \$33,000.00.

[R20058](#) Resolution Authorizing Refund of Tax Overpayment  
[Agreement](#)

**WHEREAS**, a duplicate tax payment has resulted in overpayment of taxes for 2020 on the properties listed below,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hillsdale authorize the Tax Collector to refund the following taxes:

Block 103 Lot 2

7 Craig Road

Refund to:

Corelogic \$4,532.09

Block 905 Lot 18

82 Forest Drive

Refund to:

Corelogic \$ 501.87

Block 1526 Lot 1

181 Knickerbocker Avenue

Refund to:

Corelogic \$2,975.70

Block 2201 Lot 32

21 Highwood Court

Refund to:

Corelogic \$4,517.59

Block 2201 Lot 43

12 Edgewood Court

Refund to:

Corelogic \$ 201.62

Total to be refunded \$12,728.87

[R20059](#) Resolution Appointing Part-Time Finance Assistant

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Hillsdale has a need for a part-time finance assistant; and **WHEREAS**, Robin Hamman has met all of the requirements for the position of part-time finance assistant; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Hillsdale desires to appoint Robin Hamman to the position of part-time finance assistant at the salary rate of \$17.50 per hour, not to exceed 25.0 hours per week effective February 18, 2020; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Borough Council of the Borough of Hillsdale, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey that Robin Hamman is hereby appointed to the position part-time finance assistant, effective February 18, 2020.

[R20060](#) Resolution Authorizing the Borough Clerk to Advertise for Cleaning Services for the Borough of Hillsdale

**WHEREAS,** the Borough of Hillsdale has a need for cleaning services;

**WHEREAS,** the anticipated term of this contract is one (1) year; with the option of two (2) 1-year extensions with the mutual consent of the Borough and the Contractor;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** the Borough Clerk is authorized to advertise for proposals for cleaning services for the Borough of Hillsdale.

[R20061](#) Resolution Authorizing Refund of Partial Permit Fee  
[Backup](#)

**WHEREAS,** the homeowner of 20 Carlyle Place paid \$152.00 for a permit for the installation of an air conditioning unit at their residence; and

**WHEREAS,** the contractor Air Management Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc located at 202 Park Avenue, Manalapan, NJ 07726 submitted a letter stating that they did not install an a/c unit at the above location; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hillsdale authorize the to refund of the following permit fee to:

Ray Shynn \$152.00

20 Carlyle Place

Hillsdale, New Jersey 07642

[R20062](#) Resolution to Cancel Small Tax Balances  
[Backup](#)

**WHEREAS,** the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hillsdale finds and declares that N.J.S.A. 40A:5-17.1 empowers authorized municipal employees to process the cancellation of tax refunds and/or delinquencies of less than Ten (\$10.00) Dollars, and

**WHEREAS,** the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hillsdale further finds and declares that the Municipal Tax Collector is qualified to process the cancellation of tax refunds and/or delinquencies of less than Ten (\$10.00) Dollars, and

**WHEREAS,** the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hillsdale further finds and declares that it is the best interest of the citizens of the Borough of Hillsdale for the Municipal Tax Collector to be authorized to process the cancellation of tax refunds and/or delinquencies of less than Ten (\$10.00) Dollars in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:5-17-1;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hillsdale, that the Municipal Tax Collector is hereby authorized to process, without any further action on the part of the Governing Body, the cancellation of any property tax refunds or delinquencies of less than Ten (\$10.00) Dollars in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:5-17-1; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that a certified Copy of this Resolution be provided by the Municipal Clerk to the Tax Collector and the Chief Financial Officer.

<u>BLOCK</u>	<u>LOT</u>	<u>QUALIFIER</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
403	13		\$.07
504	48		\$.05
713	3		\$.01
1008	9		\$.10
1314	5		\$.04
1517	2		\$.01
1801	65		\$.12
2002	2		\$.01
2201	38		<u>\$.10</u>

Motion by Council Member DeRosa, Second by Council President Horvath

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Council President Horvath, Council Members Lundy, DeRosa and Pizzella Nays: None

Absent: Council Member Escobar and Council Member Trochimiuk

**OFF-CONSENT:**

[R20063](#) Authorizing the Transfer of 2019 Budget Appropriations Reserves

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-59 provides that should it become necessary during the first three months of the fiscal year to expand for any of the purposes specified in the budget an amount in excess of the respective sums appropriated therefore and there shall be an excess in any appropriation over and above the amount deemed to be necessary to fulfill the purpose of such appropriation, the Mayor and Council may by resolution setting forth the facts (adopted by not less than 2/3 of the full membership thereof), transfer the amount of such excess of these appropriations deemed to be insufficient,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hillsdale that the Chief Municipal Financial Officer be and is hereby authorized to make the following transfers in the 2019 Budget Appropriations Reserves.

	<b>FROM</b>	<b>TO</b>
<b>APPROPRIATIONS</b>	<b>ACCOUNT</b>	<b>ACCOUNT</b>
<b><u>CURRENT FUND</u></b>		
<b>WITHIN CAPS</b>		
Group Insurance Plans	\$ 2,500.00	
Financial Administration Other Expenses		\$ 2,500.00
<b>TOTAL TRANSFERS WITHIN CAPS</b>	<b>\$ 2,500.00</b>	<b>\$2,500.00</b>

Motion by Council Member Lundy, Second by Council President Horvath

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Council President Horvath, Council Members Lundy, DeRosa and Pizzella Nays: None

Absent: Council Member Escobar and Council Member Trochimiuk

**COUNCIL COMMENTARIES:**

Council Member Lundy stated that she would like to congratulate Chef Merida on his accomplishment of beating Bobby Flay. Then I would like to thank Don Carty for his service in joining the fire department, as well as thank the fire department for their service and their assistance with the call in Westwood.

Council President Horvath – No comments tonight.

Council Member DeRosa said just a reminder that there is a free shredding event for Hillsdale residents, this Saturday from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at the DPW. Just a thanks to the Finance Committee, Mayor Ruocco, Chris Tietjen, BA, Abby Lundy, Janetta Trochimiuk and David Sireci who was in it too, and I'm sure was a big help. That's a very large undertaking and from the presentation I'm pretty happy. That's a good balance between very little increase in tax and a good amount of investment in in the Borough and infrastructure. So, I'm pleased to see that. I'd also like to give thanks to the Hillsdale Fire Department and all emergency responders. They're a humble group of individuals and they answer the call when needed. And you know, it's almost a little bit more dangerous to be a volunteer fireman as opposed to a big city. Big city you see a lot of fires and are used to them. You know, people say, what goes on in a small town, and the danger is when you actually have a bad fire in a small town it's more dangerous. That's why training is so important, but thanks for what they did.

Council Member Pizzella – No comments tonight.

Mayor Ruocco stated that Thursday night the Borough Engineer and I met with residents from Chestnut Street and Habitat for Humanity at the library to discuss the prospect of building a one family affordable home for a moderate-income family. This is something that we have to do for our affordable housing plan agreement. The Habitat officials presented a visual of the house that they typically build, and their practice of working with the new residents to ensure that they, as with any new homeowner, maintain the property and their financial status. The property in my view is an ideal location to raise children in a safe, quiet, and established neighborhood. The Borough did its due diligence in recommending the site to Habitat. It considered all the properties that the town owns, most of which are environmentally unsuited, or have a size or shape that make it impossible or impractical for the Borough to donate for Habitat to build upon. The property that the council picked, 2 Chestnut Street, is a buildable lot similar to others built by Habitat. Residents indicated at the meeting they had great respect for the work that Habitat does to build affordable housing, but they didn't want it at 2 Chestnut Street. They demanded that we put it into someone else's neighborhood.

They feared that it would result in Chestnut Street becoming a traffic through street and that building on the site would disrupt the wildlife, result in the removal of trees and that the property was prone to flooding. This Council has been consistent in saying that there were never any plans, nor are there any now, to make that street a through street. As for their other objections, I believe that they are generally without merit and were the subject of an extensive discussion with the residents back in early January, in which the Borough Engineer and the Borough Attorney participated and addressed each of their non-traffic concerns. The reasons cited by the residents as to why it should not be built are all reasons that could have been cited against the original owners of their homes when they were built. The disruption to wildlife, cutting of trees and more impervious land. But at this past Thursday's meeting, a new reason was raised by the residents to Habitat, as to why they should reject the Borough's donation. That reason was that any family who would live in a house, in that house, would feel unwanted and therefore not be happy in the neighborhood, once they realized that existing residents had opposed the construction. I worry especially about this line of reasoning. It's somewhat circuitous and self-serving, and it portrays Hillsdale in a way that I think is bad for the town. Make no mistake about my views on the State's affordable housing program. I and many other elected officials are concerned over the manner in which the State of New Jersey has chosen to implement its affordable housing program. Our concerns are based on the potential for over building multifamily units and the potential for rapid and disruptive change in the fabric of a small-town community such as ours. Here we're talking about one family, an attractive home for people of moderate income, in a good, quiet, safe neighborhood. The governing body agreed under penalty of law to donate a piece of property

to Habitat so that they would build a single-family home for someone for moderate income. This property as I said already, is well suited for that purpose, despite what I think are somewhat weakened self-serving arguments that the residents have raised. If it is not done, the Borough will be held in violation of a court approved agreement and that will take on negotiations for the next round of affordable housing requirements in four years. If it is not done, we will become known as the town that couldn't even complete the simplest, most unobtrusive requirement in it's affordable housing plan. If it is not done, what will be said about this Council's inability in the face of weakened specious arguments to stand by its own decisions? If it is not done, what will prevent other residents from expecting the same lack of resolve on our part, if they present us with weak arguments? That's really all I have to say about this particular topic.

This brings us to a closed session. We have Resolution 20064, which is a resolution to adjourn to closed session to provide for a meeting not open to the public in accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings act. We're going to discuss preliminary planning for the redevelopment of the Patterson street industrial area, as well as compliance with the borough's affordable housing agreement. Do I have a motion to go into closed?

Motion by Council Member Pizzella, Second by Council Member Lundy

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Council President Horvath, Council Members Lundy, DeRosa and Pizzella Nays: None

Absent: Council Member Escobar and Council Member Trochimiuk

**ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION:**

[R20064](#) 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 – *Preliminary Planning for the Redevelopment of the Patterson St Industrial Area, Compliance with the Borough's Affordable Housing Agreement*

**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 -
- (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 –  
*Preliminary Planning for the Redevelopment of the Patterson St Industrial Area, Compliance with the Borough's Affordable Housing Agreement*
- (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 Pizzella, Second by Council Member Lundy

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Council President Horvath, Council Members Lundy, DeRosa and Pizzella Nays: None

Absent: Council Member Escobar and Council Member Trochimiuk

**RECONVENE REGULAR MEETING:**

Motion to reconvene by Council Member Pizzella, Second by Council Member DeRosa, and unanimously carried.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion to reconvene by Council Member Pizzella, Second by Council Member DeRosa, and unanimously carried.

**THE NEXT MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL WILL BE  
TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2020**

Denise Kohan, Municipal Clerk

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APPROVED AS PRESENTED