

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

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

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT:

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

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

ROLL CALL:

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

APPOINTMENTS/OATH OF OFFICE:

Lieutenant Sean Smith gave some biographical information on incoming Auxiliary Captain Andy Perez. He noted that several months ago, Captain Donald Carty of the Police Auxiliary was recognized for his longevity and service to Hillsdale for the past 18 years. Since that time, Captain Carty has decided to take a backseat and hand over the reins to Andy Perez. Andy was also recognize that that same meeting for his dedication and volunteer hours. Captain Perez grew up in River Vale, and had an affinity for policemen since he was a child. In eighth grade, he participated in the Junior Police Academy program in River Vale, which eventually led him to join the Police Reserves program in 2011, while studying for his business degree. His hobbies include fishing, hiking, traveling, and playing golf. He is an Assistant Vice President at TD Bank, and works in commercial lending as a credit analyst. Lieutenant Smith said he gave him great pleasure to promote Andy Perez to Captain of the Police Auxiliary.

Oath of Office

Max Arnowitz, Mayor

Mayor Arnowitz commented that the Police Reserve is one of the unsung groups in town that does not receive the recognition it deserves for the work done by its members. The members of these groups come out in all kinds of weather, at any time, and they are an immense help for traffic control, searches, and finding missing people. They are coordinated and professional. Above all, they do this without pay.

RECOGNITION: *None*

PROCLAMATIONS: *None*

PRESENTATIONS: *None*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *February 10, 2015*

Work Session Meeting January 4, 2015; regular meeting January 20, 2015.

PROFESSIONALS REPORTS:

(The following correspondence on file in Borough Clerks Office)

Borough Engineer – dated January 28, 2015

Greg Polyniak of Neglia and Associates presented the Engineer's Report. He stated that his office submitted solicitations for methane sensors for the Hillsdale landfill clubhouse building. Mr. Polyniak anticipates responses will be received Friday, February 13. At that time, his office will then issue recommendations for the installation of the sensors, which are required by current DEP standards and code. The testing for methane has occurred at the landfill, as has the groundwater sampling. The results are very similar to those obtained in previous samplings, there are some higher concentrations surrounding the existing building at the same locations that were previously tested. The monitoring firm mentioned that when they visited the building, the venting system was not on, and they recommended that it always be turned on so that if someone visited the building, even though there are no levels of methane at ambient elevations, the public is still protected when entering the buildings. Mayor Arnowitz noted that one of the problems with that is that the Borough was receiving very high electrical fees. To

avoid these fees, the meter was pulled, shutting the power off to the facility. The cost per month was \$1,000-\$1,200 per month. He asked if there was any way to run a line from another pole to bypass the transformer that was put in for the lights at the field, to avoid the fees. Mr. Polyniak stated that could be investigated, but he thinks the situation will resolve itself once the sensors are installed, because the Borough will know if there are high methane levels within the building. Mayor Arnowitz pointed out that the sensors require electricity, and Mr. Polyniak responded that his firm will look into that. The sensors require electrical service.

Council Member Meyerson had a question about the grants for the road program, noting that last year Hillsdale received \$150,000 for the work on Saddlewood drive, and he asked Mr. Polyniak was saying that there is an additional \$150,000 that is not yet been received. Mr. Polyniak responded that the Borough received \$250,000 for Kent Road and Baylor Avenue, and another \$149,000 for Saddlewood Drive. The project has started, but the paving operations not begun, due to the weather. Council Member Meyerson asked for confirmation that the money has already been awarded, but it is just a matter of the paving being completed, which Mr. Polyniak confirmed. As of today, his office has filed vouchers with the State so that Hillsdale should have received 75% of the grant funds awarded. The remaining 25% will be disbursed once project is closed out. Council Member Meyerson mentioned that the paving is scheduled to be done in the spring, and he asked if there any other outstanding grant applications for any additional road programs. Mr. Polyniak answered that a grant application was made for the second phase of Saddlewood Drive on the same project. In addition, there is a Safe Streets to School grant application that is currently under review by the State. Council Member Meyerson asked what the total amount of grant applications are outstanding for paving, and Mr. Polyniak answered that there is approximately another \$350,000 outstanding for paving, and the typical DOT program grants are \$150,000. In addition, the Safe Streets to School Grant is approximately \$500,000, which is awarded on a discretionary basis by the State and could be any amount up to \$500,000, 100% funded and not a matching grant for either. Council Member Meyerson asked when a response is likely to be received on that, and Mr. Polyniak answered that it will likely be in the spring or summer of 2015, or in March, at the earliest. Council Member Meyerson recalled that usually, responses were received at around the same time as budget discussions.

MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Ambulance Corps –

Construction Department –

DPW – Donald Russell, Superintendent of the Department of Public Works, presented the report for the month of January. Mr. Russell wanted to discuss the last storm, which he said was not an easy one for his Department. He received a letter from a resident who was very unhappy, which he discussed. The current equipment is in bad shape, and three trucks have been lost, two of which were salt trucks. The Borough currently has one salt truck on the roads. The men took only one break throughout the storm, after which time they cleared the sidewalks. The DPW is suffering from a lack of manpower and equipment at this time. Mr. Russell commented that residents need to realize that his personnel are working, and doing their best, and the town is not small. They do their best, even when their trucks are sliding all over the roads. They were able to make one sweep of the town, after which time the truck started breaking down that is when they decided to break off and cover sections of the town. Once they separated, it is much harder to ensure that all areas are covered. Mr. Russell hopes that the other salt truck will be available by tomorrow. The two trucks that broke down are from 1997-1998. One of them was refurbished, and it has 20,000 miles on it, which is “hard mileage”. The other truck, the flow body truck, was discussed at the last meeting because it is also in bad shape. Other trucks are in various stages of disrepair, including dead batteries, alternators that have blown, etc. The men are doing their best with the equipment that is available. In addition, Mr. Russell mentioned that if salt is purchased from a private company, it will cost \$82 per ton, versus the current method of purchasing from the County co-op at \$57.72 per ton.

Council Member DeGise pointed out that serious investment is needed in the infrastructure of the DPW, because Mr. Russell and his crew are currently in need of help. If that cannot be done, Council Member DeGise strongly suggested that snow removal should be sub-contracted, because it is not safe, and the crew cannot do the job given the current state of the equipment available.

Mayor Arnowitz recalled that he made an announcement at the prior meeting when this was mentioned, and the Finance Committee is already discussing the situation. It is too late to buy equipment for this year, but they are discussing the possibility of floating a bond for the purchase of new equipment. In fact, Mayor Arnowitz wants to bond everything next year, because interest rates are down, and it will help to accomplish the road program, the equipment, the work at the Public Library, and other issues

that need to be identified. Mayor Arnowitz has asked Council Member Ruocco, who is Chairman of the Finance Committee, to look at the figures and give everyone an idea of the situation. However, none of that will solve the problem for this year. Mayor Arnowitz has been to other towns, and they are in similar shape. He reached out to other towns regarding the salt, and the problem is not that there is no salt available, but getting it to all of the towns. Everyone is putting the salt down at the same time. Council Member DeGise mentioned a trucking company in Westwood that can be sent to pick up salt, as long as permission is obtained from the County in advance. Another alternative is to send the truck to a private company to pick up salt. The second comment he made was regarding a discussion he had with Kevin Downes, who said that if equipment is needed, and there is a pending storm, it would be wise to order it now. Mr. Russell answered that currently, the County owes Hillsdale approximately 300 tons of salt.

Mayor Arnowitz suggested that Mr. Russell should get in touch with Mr. Downes as soon as possible, and he asked Council Member DeRosa to coordinate that. Mr. Russell mentioned that his contact at Downes, Tommy, was able to obtain another truck for use in Hillsdale during the last storm. Council Member DeGise suggested that Mr. Russell should call Downes right away to order a salter, loader, and five trucks, so that they could be ready for the next storm.

Mr. Russell mentioned that Hillsdale is down 300 tons of salt, which was ordered on January 26, and another load is scheduled to be delivered tomorrow, which should get us through the next storm. He received an email from the Bergen County Public Works Association explaining that everyone is having a problem getting salt. Mayor Arnowitz noted that the problem, as explained to him, is that there is plenty of salt available at Hackensack, but there are difficulties in getting it to the towns that need it. Council Member DeGise pointed out that it is necessary to pre-register with the County to let them know that we are sending a truck to pick up salt, and they will load the truck with the salt, which can be brought back to us. Mayor Arnowitz and Council Member DeGise emphasized that Mr. Russell should do whatever is necessary to get the job done. Mr. Russell pointed out that he needs men as well as equipment. Council Member DeGise stated that he should try to get those five people that he needs as soon as possible, and if he needs five trucks with five men, that is what he should request from Downes. Mr. Russell added that he needs people to shovel snow. Council Member DeGise asked if the person who plowed the streets in the downtown area is still available, and Mr. Russell noted that he cannot do it anymore. Council Member DeGise said the man told him that he could do all of the sidewalks, except for the downtown area, because he does not have enough laborers. Ms. Witkowski said she would call the man again tomorrow. Mayor Arnowitz suggested that Mr. Russell could take the people he currently has to do the downtown, and let the outside contractor do the rest of it. Mr. Russell added that he was planning to have some of his men remove the snow from the downtown area tomorrow night on the streets and sidewalks.

Council Member DeRosa added that this past snow removal effort was not acceptable, but he did not want Mr. Russell to think that he and his crew were being faulted. Three storms have hit already at the most inconvenient times – Sunday morning/Monday morning. He said he believes in Mr. Russell and his crew.

Council Member Meyerson pointed out that until last year, the winters had not been unusually bad for the seven years prior to that. Severe storms have been occurring with very little breaks in between. Mayor Arnowitz added that while there are some restrictions on what Mr. Russell can do, practically speaking, it is necessary to get the job done within reason.

Council Member DeRosa stated that the previous storm was a long one, and Mr. Russell is a good leader. He observed Mr. Russell and his crew working and getting the job done. Council Member DeGise pointed out that Mr. Russell has brought in his own personal snow removal equipment from home to get the sidewalks done.

Council Member Ruocco asked if there is any downside to calling in Downes when it is known that a storm is coming, but the storm does not materialize. Council Member DeGise said there is no downside, because if they are not used, the town is not billed.

Fire Department – Council Member DeGise reported that the Fire Chief, who is out of town, asked him to report that the Fire Department has been very busy over the past several weeks. There were two special calls received, one of which came from the Bergen County Fire Coordinator requesting two teams to go to work in Edgewater. Teams from Woodcliff Lake and Hillsdale responded, and the entire Hillsdale Fire Department went on the call. They left at approximately 6:45 PM and did not return home until at approximately 3:30 AM. They were fighting the fire during that entire time, with 15 other ladder

trucks from other responding fire departments. The other call was a request to help someone get out of the house, and the ladder truck was used.

(Council Member DeGise left the meeting at 7:55 PM to respond to a fire call.)

Board of Health – Council Member Looes stated that the Borough Administrator was contacted about a lead ordinance, and reimbursements for lead testing performed on children. That is now being investigated to see what Hillsdale currently has.

Mayor Arnowitz noted that he spoke to someone at the Board of Health tonight as a result of a complaint from Marissa Cefali about the rodents, and they will be taken care of.

Hillsdale Public Library – Council President Pizzella reported that the Public Library held its foreign film series this past week. The seniors' cinema is rescheduled for Wednesday, February 4, at 12:00 noon. Maker Space will return on Wednesday, February 4, from 2:30 PM-4:30 PM. It is an event in which participants can construct their own sets using random objects available. Another maker fair will be held on March 21. It is open to all Hillsdale residents and library cardholders, who are invited to make something exhibited. The items crafted will be judged by the crowd, and prizes will be given.

Police Department – Chief Francaviglia presented the report. Arrests were made by Officers Kaplan, Camporeale, Decena, and Considine, covering everything from false identification to drug charges to warrants and shoplifters. There were 316 motor vehicle stops last month, and 161 summonses issued. All dispatching shifts were covered by non-sworn personnel. The 12-hour shifts continue, with no issues so far. Finally, Chief Francaviglia mentioned that there were three burglaries on the west side of town. He reminded everyone to be vigilant and to be good neighbors by watching out for each others houses. If anyone sees anything suspicious, please call the Police Department. Extra eyes and ears are needed to help catch the perpetrators. In addition, Chief Francaviglia clarified that burglaries are different from robberies. Robberies occur when some type of force is used when committing a theft. With burglaries, the perpetrators usually wait until no one is home before entering the home. They have been experienced in Hillsdale, as well as in the surrounding towns. Burglars do not want to be seen, and they avoid confrontations. Chief Francaviglia asked everyone to leave lights on when they are not home, and make sure the doors are locked. He also encouraged everyone to check the Hillsdale Police Department Facebook page for updates.

Council Member Meyerson asked if the burglary issue is occurring only in Hillsdale, or if it is more of a regional issue. Chief Francaviglia responded that they are occurring throughout Bergen County. Council Member Meyerson asked if any arrests have been made, and Chief Francaviglia answered that the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office is investigating, but no leads have been found so far.

Council Member Ruocco asked if the burglaries were occurring at a certain time period chief Francaviglia responded that the incidence in Hillsdale occurred between 3:00 PM-6:00 PM, while people are picking up their children from school or returning home from work. Mayor Arnowitz asked if it would be possible to make an announcement at the senior luncheon on February 11 about these occurrences, which Chief Francaviglia agreed to do.

Recreation/Stonybrook – Council Member DeRosa reported that the Recreation Commission held its reorganization meeting with four new members: Abby Lundy; Robert Ricco; and two student members, David Dembowski and Lauren Dentato. The group is working on empowering themselves, and perhaps changing the bylaws and code to include such things as requiring members to attend a minimum number of meetings; and that the Commission must assist at special events for the town, not just at sports events. Council Member DeRosa said they would be working closely with the Borough Attorney on those changes.

Regarding Stonybrook, Council Member DeRosa noted that membership is down, as it is in many pools in this area. The members are working on creative ways to increase membership, including a discount for early sign up; a three-payment plan; and a survey was sent to members who did not renew their membership to find out why they did not do so. They are also investigating the possibility of making an arrangement with the River Vale Country Club for golfing privileges, and they are open to the acting CFO/financial development person to work with them on ways to grow.

Board of Education – Council Member DeRosa commented that the Board of Education had a meeting on January 5, and Kathleen O'Flynn was elected President. She is a former elementary school teacher at St. John's Academy, and worked on staff development at the Northvale public schools. She was also

recently appointed the Supervisor of Professional Learning in the Northern Valley Regional High School District. The Past President, James Hayden, served on the Board of Education for 26 years, and has decided to step down. Council Member DeRosa thanked Mr. Hayden for all of his years of service. Currently, there are two open positions on the Board of Education. Candidates have been interviewed for the position vacated by Mrs. Martino, and a decision should be made shortly. They are currently accepting letters for the other open position, and anyone who is interested should contact the Board of Education office. The deadline has passed for the initial phase of the Superintendent search, and the Board of Education has begun the interview process. In addition, Hillsdale teachers are currently working without a contract, and the contract negotiations are now at the mediation stage. Regarding the recent tragedy in New Milford, in which a lunch table fell on a student, killing him, the Board of Education immediately investigated the tables in use in our schools, and ensured that they are secure.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Status of Sports Association Agreements

Council Member DeRosa reported that there are four new members of the Recreation Commission, and they had their first reviewed the agreements at the last meeting. They will be meeting again on Thursday to discuss them, and if there are any changes, Council Member DeRosa will submit them to the Borough Attorney. This will be left on the agenda. Mr. Madaio noted that he had no issues with the agreement as drafted by the previous Borough Attorney. Council Member DeRosa stated that the Commission members will add their comments on Thursday, and after they are incorporated, the sports associations will be asked for their agreement to the contracts.

2. Donation of Land, 46 Beechwood Road, Block 1109, Lot 3, Joe Gassib

Mayor Arnowitz noted that this is something in which Council Members Meyerson, Looes, and DeGise must recuse themselves from discussing. Mr. Gassib went before the Planning Board for an application to subdivide the lot on which he has a house, and at the property to this lot. The Planning Board denied his application, and Mr. Gassib asked Mayor Arnowitz if the Borough would be interested in receiving the property as a donation, and would be a good addition to the water retention. Mr. Gassib would take a tax loss on it. Mayor Arnowitz responded that he would not get involved in any tax situation with Mr. Gassib, but he said that the Borough Council would consider accepting the property as a donation. Mr. Gassib now wants to move forward with this, and Mayor Arnowitz is recommending that the Council move forward. The property in question is behind the Post Office, in the flood zone. The Borough owns property adjacent to it, and it would be a good addition to the water retention area. Mayor Arnowitz explained that the Council Members Meyerson, Looes, and DeGise cannot discuss this matter because Mr. Gassib made a donation to their election campaign. Council Member DeRosa asked if the property can be built on. Mayor Arnowitz answered that years ago, Mr. Gassib came before the Planning Board and his application was denied. He appealed to the Bergen County Courts, and no ruling was ever issued, although the judge strongly urged the Borough Attorney at that time to work with Mr. Gassib. The Borough offered to sell its property to Mr. Gassib to bring a lot into conformance, but the law requires the Borough to get the property assessed. Mr. Gassib rejected the price that was quoted as a result of the assessment. The Borough offered to pay Mr. Gassib a similar amount for his property, and they could not reach an agreement. Mr. Gassib made another application to the Planning Board, which was again denied. Mayor Arnowitz believes Mr. Gassib might be able to get a variance in the County to build on the property, but he is not sure.

Council Member Meyerson asked if the property is donated to the Borough, and it is adjacent to a property owned by the Borough, is there any prohibition the Borough subsequently packaging those parcels together and selling them for development purposes. Mr. Madaio questioned funding, i.e. green acres? Mayor Arnowitz answered that, according to Mr. Gassib's lawyer, there are no such restrictions. However, Mayor Arnowitz does not recommend building on the property. Moreover, the addition of Mr. Gassib's property makes the Borough property conforming. When the property was originally offered for sale, no deed restrictions were found at that time. The two lots are non-conforming because they are undersized, together, they become an oversized lot.

Council Member Ruocco asked if there any environmental liabilities attached to the property. Mayor Arnowitz said there were none to his knowledge, but he thinks that, as he stated regarding the Tandy/Allen property, the Borough to take advantage of the free service in which someone will come out and assess the environmental issues. He added that the property has been underwater due to floods from the stream, although he has not heard of any contaminants in that area, other than surface contaminants, such as floating garbage. It should be noted that the Borough will have to maintain the lot, just as the one currently owned by the Borough is maintained by the Borough. During floods, water collects in this area, and does not dissipate.

Council president Pizzella reminded everyone that the Borough Council last year endorsed a resolution

grant obtained by Bergen SWAN to evaluate the watershed protections in Westwood and Hillsdale. Council President Pizzella and Ms. Witkowski recently attended a meeting in Westwood with Bergen SWAN and some representatives from Westwood at which they were asked about certain property the watershed, and Council President Pizzella believes this is one of the properties that was highlighted as an area that could be used for watershed protection. The consensus of the Council Members was to move forward with this, Mr. Madaio will contact Mr. Jacobs, the attorney for Mr. Gassib, and the JIF will be notified. In addition, the environmental process will be started.

3. Bus Shelter

Ms. Witkowski explained that she sent everything to the Police Chief, who reviewed and approved all of it. The resolution will be on the agenda for next week.

4. Senior Van Driver – February/March

Mayor Arnowitz explained that the driver of the senior van will be having surgery, and another driver needs to be found. Ms. Witkowski noted that Ms. Hughes said she knows of someone who can help out temporarily; the regular driver will be out for 6-10 weeks. The other necessity is to get a van that runs. Council Member Ruocco noted that some of the senior citizens could not make it to the last senior luncheon, because the van was not working. He mentioned that River Vale will do some diagnostics on the van so that we can get a better understanding of what is wrong. It has broken down twice in the past two weeks for different reasons. Council Member Ruocco thinks it would be a good idea to get the New Jersey Transit grant that will soon be available, as he discussed with Ms. Witkowski. It is scheduled to be posted this month. Mayor Arnowitz recalled that the Borough purchased the van from Old Tappan, because the mechanic in Old Tappan felt it was not worth repairing any more.

5. Request for Temporary Outside Vestibule – Big Daddy's

Mayor Arnowitz reported that this was discussed at the last meeting. The store owner investigated the situation, and withdrew his request, because it did affect the handicapped access.

6. Inspection Report – Drainage Conditions, Vicinity of 19 Hopkins Street

Mayor Arnowitz read the report, which is not clear. Mr. Polyniak stated that his office performed the inspection, and photos were attached to the report. During the inspection, it was evident that from Carlyle Place to Overbrook Street, the road slopes in that direction at the intersection at the base of Overbrook. There is a stretch from the high point of that intersection that is approximately 550 feet in length. The current regulations relating to roadway designs state that catch basins cannot be spaced more than 400 feet in distance, so if the roadway were designed and constructed today, there would be more catch basins around there. However, the roadway was built before those regulations were applicable, so the Borough is not required to construct any inlets or improvements to address any drainage in that area. If the Borough Council did choose to install such improvements at that location, it would require two separate catch basins; approximately 300 feet in pipe; and due to the severity of the slope and to preclude deep excavation, it is recommended that a series of manholes be installed to keep the cost down. The estimate for those improvements is approximately \$45,000, but Mr. Polyniak emphasized that the Borough is not obligated to construct any improvements in that area.

Mayor Arnowitz asked if the catch basins were installed, would they still drain into the same pipes as the other catch basins, which Mr. Polyniak confirmed. Mayor Arnowitz noted that when the water goes down the slope, the catch basin feeds into the stream behind the Elks Club. When the stream rises, the water cannot go back into the stream, so it backs up into the catch basin. Mr. Polyniak agreed, and added that unless a backflow preventer was also installed, which would restrict the water flow backing up into the drainage system, the new catch basins would not address any of those issues. He noted that during small storm events, the intermediate basins would catch the runoff so they would not be the larger gutter flow during those small storm events (not events such as Hurricane Irene or Superstorm Sandy), but it would not help at all during larger storm events. Mayor Arnowitz noted that he has visited the area quite a few times, and unfortunately, the streets only flood during larger storm events, so he does not see any benefits to installing more catch basins. He observed that the water backs up because he cannot go back to the stream. Mr. Polyniak agreed with that assessment, and stated that there are many areas in Hillsdale where the catch basins are separated by more than 400 feet, and the project would quickly become a global project, and that is why he does not recommend taking any action at this time.

Council Member Ruocco asked if the water backed up into driveways and homes during the smaller storms. Mr. Polyniak said that it potentially could do so, because there is a possibility of larger gutter flow, in which the water would avoid the catch basin and meander down the driveway at the terminus of Overbrook and Hopkins. Councilman Ruocco asked if that means that if the additional basins are placed further north, and Mr. Polyniak finished by saying that it would potentially capture some of the flow that might avoid the

flooding at the bottom of the roadway, which might be a benefit to the one homeowner at the base of the roadway.

Mayor Arnowitz asked if it would help to expand the sides of the existing catch basins. Mr. Polyniak responded that it would be possible to create a double inlet, in which the size of the inlet could be expanded to create two separate inlets next to one another, to prevent the water from meandering, and create a larger low point in that area. That might help during medium storm events. Mayor Arnowitz noted that the only time he saw water going over the curb in a small storm was when they are released in the catch basins. He added that this is something to think about during the budget discussions.

7. Donation of Land, 49 Oak Street, Block 702, Lot 11, Thomas Giblin

Mayor Arnowitz noted that this was discussed before, and at that time, it was suggested that the property owner offer the property to the adjacent homeowner. Ms. Witkowski said the property owner has not received any response at all to his offer. Mayor Arnowitz stated that he sees no benefit in accepting this offer, because nothing can be done to the property except to maintain it. The consensus of the Council Members was that the Borough should not accept the property. Council Member Meyerson pointed out that every time the Borough accepts property, no matter where it comes from and for whatever reason, that property is coming off the tax rolls, and the Borough is obligated to maintain it. Those issues must be raised when considering these types of things. Mr. Madaio will contact the property owner and advised him that the Borough is not interested.

8. Elevation Sign at Patterson Street Bridge

Council Member DeGise noted that Mr. Russell met with the OEM coordinator. They are not sure at what level the sign should be placed, so they will work together to strike a transit line across at level III.

Council Member DeRosa asked Mr. Polyniak if he had anything to add to the situation regarding the elevator repair at the Public Library. Mr. Polyniak responded that he does not have anything at this time, although he is aware that there are some budget discussions occurring about this, as well as discussions about when the project will begin, which are currently being reviewed by the CFO and the Borough Administrator. The contractor who installed the elevator, Jerrell, has asked to be present during the work, and has also requested 48 hours notice.

NEW BUSINESS:

DISCUSSION:

BUDGET:

1. Authorize Engagement Letter for 2014 CFO Duties

2. Modify Temporary Budget Resolution

Ms. Witkowski explained that this will be modified because Stonybrook was not on the original resolution, and when the previous CFO reviewed it, some accounts need to be adjusted. Mr. Benecke will take care of the new modifications.

3. New Fee Ordinance – Stonybrook Pool

Council Member DeRosa said it is his understanding that this is a correction to the last submission, a result of an internal miscommunication. It will be reintroduced on February 10, and rolled back to 2014. Council Member Meyerson noted that the mistake was in including a wholesale reduction of 11%, which will be rescinded, and the Commission will retain the right to reduce it by offering discounts. That may or may not require the Council to re-introduce it.

4. Supplemental Mechanic Duties

Ms. Witkowski noted that she brought this issue to the Finance Committee, and she was asked to make a chart. It has been discovered that a lot of mechanical issues are sent out because Hillsdale lacks the equipment to perform many of these repairs. Normally, such things are sent to F&S, and the Borough is being charged a lot for these services. In fact, Hillsdale is paying more than they would pay to River Vale if this were done as part of an interlocal agreement. Ms. Witkowski has also spoken to people in Paramus to see what they could offer. Mayor Arnowitz recalled that there was discussion in the past about entering into an agreement with Paramus, and Ms. Witkowski pointed out that River Vale offers a better deal. Ms. Witkowski has a sample interlocal agreement from River Vale, which Mr. Madaio will review. Council Member DeGise suggested that prices also be obtained from Westwood; they are looking for new clients.

5. Award Animal Control Service

Mayor Arnowitz noted that this is a yearly item. Ms. Witkowski mentioned that there are two minor changes this year, including the necessity to put out an RFP. One has been obtained from TYCO, who has been doing this service for Hillsdale for a long time, and the other is from Bergen County, which encompasses many different services. Ms. Witkowski will make a recommendation next week. Mayor Arnowitz suggested that she check with the Police Chief, because one of the reasons why the Borough used TYCO in the past is because they have a very fast response time, and some of the other companies were not as proficient.

6. Authorize Accounting Services Year-End 2014

Mayor Arnowitz pointed out that the interlocal agreement with Lyndhurst will not be executed.

7. Authorize Refund of Tax Payment

Mayor Arnowitz asked if the lot and block information would be obtained, which Ms. Witkowski confirmed.

POLICY:

1. Appointment Municipal Housing Liaison

Mayor Arnowitz noted that this is for COAH, and Ms. Witkowski added that it is standard.

MISCELLANEOUS:

1. Request for 2015 Pascack Valley Triathlon, August 22, 2015 (New Date)

Ms. Witkowski commented that this was a change from what was originally received.

2. Request for Art in the Park, June 7, 2015

Ms. Witkowski will check with the Police Chief on this matter.

ORDINANCES: (for agenda February 10, 2015)

Adoption:

15-02: AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF HILLSDALE, COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO AMEND CHAPTER 138 OF THE BOROUGH CODE ENTITLED "FEES" PERTAINING TO LAND USE

15-03: AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING 2015 SALARIES FOR THE RECREATION DEPARTMENT

15-04: AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING RECREATION DEPARTMENT PROGRAM AND SUMMER CAMP FEES FOR THE YEAR 2015 IN THE BOROUGH OF HILLSDALE (new introduction)

15-05: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT ORDINANCE 09-01, CHAPTER 138, "FEES" AND CHAPTER 71, SWIMMING POOL COMMISSION

15-06: AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING SALARIES FOR THE STAFF OF THE HILLSDALE SWIMMING POOL COMMISSION FOR THE CURRENT YEAR 2015 IN THE BOROUGH OF HILLSDALE, COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

15-07: AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF HILLSDALE, COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, ADOPTING REGULATIONS FOR THE PLANTING, GROWING, AND/OR CULTIVATING OF BAMBOO

Introduction:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ann Cron, 187 Magnolia Avenue, stated that she had two trees on the Borough easement, which were removed by the Borough because they were diseased. They were at the front of her property. Before the trees were removed, the curb and sidewalk were installed. The sidewalk is very narrow by her house, and follows the curb before widening out. During the previous snowstorm, when they Borough plowed, a lot of slush was pushed up onto the sidewalk in front of Ms. Cron's house, where it froze. Because Ms. Cron cannot do any shoveling, her neighbor has been helping her with that. However, it took her neighbor much longer (because she could not use the snow blower) to do that small portion that it took to do a whole

driveway. Ms. Cron would like to have the sidewalk removed and move it back so it is in line with the rest of the block, although it is on Borough property. Mayor Arnowitz pointed out the sidewalk is the responsibility of the property owners, and he believes that Ms. Cron may be allowed to do that, but he suggested that she check with Tracy in the Building Department for further information.

At this time, Mayor Arnowitz closed the time for public comments.

COUNCIL COMMENTARIES:

Council Member DeGise stated that one of the reasons he joined the Council two years ago will possibly happen this year, and he is very happy Mayor Arnowitz and some of the other Council Members are keeping an open mind about it. That is reinvesting in Hillsdale, and reinvesting of the departments that need it. Council Member DeGise said he is not talking about a minor reinvestment, but a major one.

Council Member Ruocco mentioned that the Finance Committee met with most of the departments, although they have yet to meet with the Police Department, which is the biggest Department; OEM; and the Tax Assessor. The discussions have been honest and open, and it is clear that many of the departments amid an effort to keep their operating expenses level, which is always appreciated by the Finance Committee. Council Member Ruocco made two observations to avoid surprising any of the other Council Members or the public. One of them is that the Stonybrook Pool Commissioners made it clear to the members of the Finance Committee that the market strategy needs to be evaluated, because it is clear that additional revenue is required. There is also a severe need to address failing equipment in the DPW, as has already been mentioned. Mr. Russell was asked to prepare a spreadsheet of the equipment, its age, useful life, mileage, problems with each piece, and Mr. Russell's ideas and recommendations about whether to buy, lease, or refurbish. His report should be within the next two weeks, subject to Mr. Russell's availability given the recent weather issues. That will be an important part of the solution to many of the budget problems. Finally, Council Member Ruocco mentioned that most people think about the Fire Department, DPW, and OEM during that weather, and he wanted to remember the Police Department, who are also always available, for their efforts to keep Hillsdale safe during the storms. That weather places an extra burden on all of the emergency personnel.

Council President Pizzella thanked all of the employees and volunteers. He thinks Hillsdale is a great place to live, and he agreed with Council Member DeGise that it is time to reinvest in the town.

Council Member Looes congratulated and thanked Captain Andy Perez for his service in the Police Auxiliary. She also mentioned the Ambulance Corps, and thanked them for inviting her to their January 24 dinner and thanked the Ambulance Corps for their services to Hillsdale. She also reminded everyone that if there is a hydrant near your house, please make sure it is dug out properly so that it can be accessed in any weather.

Council Member DeRosa thanked the DPW for their efforts and dedication. He also mentioned that Hillsdale is one of the five towns who bid on hosting the Northeast Bergen All-Star Baseball Tournament, and we won the bid. That is good for Hillsdale, because we will be hosting numerous games day and night on multiple fields; and the potential revenue that will be brought in to Hillsdale which will benefit both the Borough and the Baseball Association, as well as the local businesses. However, it will require a lot of effort from everyone, including the DPW; Recreation Commission; Fire Department; Police Department; and OEM. More information and details will be forthcoming. Council member DeRosa would also like to revisit the issue of drainage at Centennial Field.

Council Member Meyerson stated that he just learned today that Jim Hayden is stepping down after 26 years on the Board of Education, and he believes the Borough Council should recognize that. He thanked Mr. Hayden for his service, and asked if the Council could invite him to a meeting to recognize them. Ms. Witkowski said she would take care of it. Finally, Council Member Meyerson mentioned that the reason he was not at the previous meeting was because he slipped and fell, and he cautioned everyone that it is very dangerous outside, and asked everyone to be careful.

Ms. Witkowski thanked the DPW, and noted their tremendous efforts despite their lack of equipment. Mr. Russell comes in to work with tremendous energy, hard, and dedication. Two shipments of salt are scheduled to be delivered tomorrow. She also mentioned that, at the request of Council Member DeRosa, she is investigating other social media sites to see what can and cannot be done. After speaking to Mr. Madaio and others, she has determined that it is basically another way to communicate with the public, and is not to be considered a blog. In addition, Mayor Arnowitz asked about lighting on Broadway in Park Avenue, which was also discussed by Chief Francaviglia and Sergeant McLaughlin. Ms. Witkowski has also asked Mr. Franklin about the types of lamps that could be used, and she hopes to have more information by

the next meeting. It is a County road, and permission must be obtained from the County before anything can be installed. Even if the County gives permission, the Borough will have to spend money to install ramps and do the necessary paving, as well as other items that have to be considered.

Mayor Arnowitz thanked Ms. Witkowski for her efforts. He acknowledged that the DPW does a wonderful job, but he commended Ms. Witkowski and her team for sending out emails and using the reverse 911 service to provide information to Hillsdale residents. Mayor Arnowitz encouraged everyone to sign up for email alerts and reverse 911 service. He also mentioned that the County will be hosting flood coalitions in Hackensack on February 10 and Mahwah on February 11; both of them start 4:00 PM. Representatives from FEMA will be attending both sessions to discuss the new regulations, and what the Borough can obtain. Mayor Arnowitz also mentioned that there are times when residents should not call the Police Department, such as when someone wants to know when the snow plow is coming through his/her street, or to complain about street cleaning. However, he received a complaint from a resident who has a handicapped son. This woman was afraid to call the police, which upset Mayor Arnowitz. She had to get her son to the hospital, and was afraid to call the police for help. That is a situation in which the police should be called, because they can help at such times. Unfortunately, DPW employees often get "tunnel vision" when they are doing snow removal. Mayor Arnowitz also asked Ms. Witkowski about honoring the DPW retirees, and Ms. Witkowski said she has been contacted to ask them to come to a Council meeting, but no responses have been received. She will keep trying. Finally, Mayor Arnowitz mentioned the equipment and salt issues. In September, he and Ms. Witkowski started meeting with Mr. Russell. The salt was at its maximum level, and all of the equipment seem to be in working order. At that time, Mayor Arnowitz was reiterating the need for keeping the equipment in good shape to be ready for leaf and snow removal seasons. He believes that now is the time to bond to purchase of the equipment, because the interest rates right now are very low. The bond can be paid off over 15 years. This is not wasting money, but is getting equipment that has been needed for years. One of the things that has to be considered for the future is to utilize outside resources, such as Downes Tree Service. It is difficult to find people to plow, especially when one considers the need to find drivers with CDL licenses.

ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION: @9:05 PM

R15050 To provide for a meeting not open to the public in accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 – Personnel – Police Department, CFO, and Administrator.

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. *Personnel, Finance; grievance; UW litigation*

(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

(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 DeGise, Second by Council Member Looes.

Roll Call Vote:

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

RECONVENE REGULAR MEETING: @10:12 PM

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

Borough Attorney Madaio stated, let the record reflect all members of the governing body present for commencement of the executive session and are present for the recommencement of the open session as well as the Borough Clerk/Borough Administrator and the Borough Attorney.

Mr. Madaio read the resolution R15051 for the position of CFO.

Motion to adopt a resolution was made by Council Member DeGise, Second by Council Member Ruocco. This resolution supersedes the resolution at the reorganization meeting with shared services.

Roll Call Vote:

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

ADJOURNMENT: @10:14 PM

Motion to adjourn was made by Council Member DeGise, second by Council Member Ruocco.

Roll Call Vote:

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

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

Susan Witkowski, Municipal Clerk

APPROVED AS PRESENTED
FEBRUARY 10, 2015

Susan Witkowski, Municipal Clerk