

## Special Council

Meeting

June 22, 2010

Minutes of a Special Council Meeting of the Borough Council held at 7:30 P.M. on Tuesday, June 22, 2010, in the Council Chamber, Hillsdale, New Jersey.

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

## ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEETING

This Special Meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Hillsdale was called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act. In addition, copies of the notice were posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building and filed in the office of the Municipal Clerk.

The fire exits are located through the double doors to your left. Proceed through the lobby and exit the building either right or left. Please silence all cell phones and pagers.

## ROLL CALL:

Mayor Arnowitz called the roll those present being as follows: Councilmembers DeJoseph, Giancarlo, Hanlon, Schiavone and Weinstein.

## APPOINTMENT: Council Member

Mayor Arnowitz said the first order of business is to fill his seat on Council from which he resigned to become Mayor. The Seat is for the rest of this year and the individual chosen will have to run for re-election in November.

We received a letter from the County Committee and the three names provided were Joseph Famoso, Douglas Frank, Frank D'Amico. He asked for a Council for a candidate for Council.

## MOTION:

Motion to appoint Douglas Frank as Council Member was made by

Councilmember Weinstein, seconded by Councilmember DeJoseph.

Councilmember Schiavone thanked the Candidates we had, we had very productive interviews and it was an extremely decision as they had wonderful qualifications.

Councilmember Weinstein expressed his pleasure in seeing candidates who haven't participated in this way before and it is refreshing to bring people in.

Councilmember Giancarlo said he believed this is the way things should transpire.

Councilmember Hanlon agreed with everything that was said tonight. It was a difficult situation. It is good to see fresh faces come forward.

Mayor Arnowitz thanked the County Committee for giving us these excellent candidates.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Councilmembers DeJoseph, Giancarlo, Hanlon, Schiavone  
And Weinstein

Nays: None

OATH OF OFFICE:

Mayor Arnowitz administered the Oath of Office to Councilmember Douglas Frank.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING:

Councilmember Frank thanked the Council for the selection and looks forward to working with everyone.

RESOLUTION:

Resolution to Amend Budget, Amendment #2.

Motion to approve the Amendment was made by Councilmember DeJoseph, seconded by Councilmember Schiavone.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Ayes: Councilmembers DeJoseph, Frank, Giancarlo, Hanlon,  
Schiavone and Weinstein

Nays: None

(SEE COPY OF RESOLUTION AFFIXED HERETO)

## ADOPTION OF BUDGET:

Resolution adopting the 2010 Municipal Budget for the Borough of Hillsdale for the year 2010.

Councilmember DeJoseph said we were able to get this budget completed but based on the situation of removal state aid and decreasing revenues, we were able to do this without layoffs, without furloughs.

Mayor Arnowitz said this budget is extremely tight. We used a lot of surplus and the Administrator has already notified the department heads that we will be freezing 10% of everyone's budget. That is a positive role.

## OPEN PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Arnowitz opened the meeting to the public for comments about the budget.

Michael Brinzey, 33 Highland Avenue -

He said the increase in the budget is unacceptable. Whenever you have a deficit, the first thing the Council should have done is freeze the salaries. He did not hear of a hard choice budget, he only heard picking on the departments and what could be done to save it. That is where a mistake was made and you could have come up with a reasonable budget this year. You were talking about peanuts rather than freezing the salaries for the year.

Mayor Arnowitz said we froze all non-contractual salaries for this year and there were no increases for non-union employees. We had the Open Space debt and the cut in state aid. This Council did their work diligently in a very difficult time and he is very proud of everyone. We did our work, it is not simple to just lay people off.

Philip Krey, 7 Bluefield Court -

People in Hillsdale voted down the school budgets for the local and regional schools. How can the council justify a 5.1% increase in operating expenses over the last year. He had no increase in his pension or Social Security. We have to do our part to turn the economy around and help our fellow Americans. Why should residents who get no salary increases be required to support the increase in salaries and other operating expenses in our local government?

Alfred J. Murphy, Jr., 5 Cherry Place -

The increase proposed in today's economy is unacceptable. The salary and wage line item is over 5%. He said reductions can be

accomplished with furloughs and that is taking place in surrounding communities. There are residents who don't have jobs and have tax payments and mortgage payments due. It is not fair. You have to make changes perhaps in pickup of garbage and recycling. Harder changes have to be made; if you don't get concessions in the negotiation process, force the issue with furloughs or layoffs.

Councilmember DeJoseph said our appropriation from the year before was about 1% increase in our total appropriation. We had a large savings in the health insurance and our problem was decrease in revenue and decrease in state aid.

Beverly Rosenstein, 32 Saddlewood Drive -  
We can cut back on services, our garbage pickup is a luxury in Hillsdale, being picked up twice a week.

Mayor Arnowitz closed the public portion of the meeting at this time.

Mayor Arnowitz said Waste Management was willing to talk to us about the feasibility of changing a 10 year contract; we are in the fifth year. When leaf recycling and transfer at their station came up, the discussion with Waste Management stopped. Unless they are willing to negotiate, we would have to wait until the contract is ended. It is not a simple matter of saying we are going to change the contract.

#### MOTION

A motion to approve the 2010 Municipal Budget was made by Councilmember DeJoseph, seconded by Councilmember Weinstein.

#### ROLL CALL VOTE:

Ayes: Councilmembers DeJoseph, Frank, Giancarlo, Hanlon,  
Schiaivone and Weinstein

Nays: None

(SEE COPY OF 2010 MUNICIPAL BUDGET AFFIXED HERETO)

#### GENERAL PUBLIC HEARING:

Mayor Arnowitz opened the meeting to the public and invited comment from the audience.

Beverly Rosenstein, 32 Saddlewood Drive -  
She said Waste Management's service could be looked into. She said receptacles for recycling are left on the road and many times they are in the middle of the road. They are not 100% efficient and the



Councilmember Giancarlo, seconded by Councilmember Frank.

10087 Liquor License Plenary Retail Distribution Renewal was introduced by Councilmember Giancarlo, seconded by Councilmember Frank.

10088 Liquor License Plenary Retail Consumption Renewal was introduced by Councilmember Giancarlo, seconded by Councilmember Frank.

Following is the result of the roll call vote on the foregoing Resolutions:

Ayes: Councilmembers DeJoseph, Frank, Giancarlo,  
Hanlon,  
Schiavone and Weinstein.

Nays: None

10083 Authorizing Settlement of a Tax Appeal for 799 Hillsdale Avenue, Block 504, Lot 2.

Following is the result of the roll call vote on Resolution 10083:

Ayes: Councilmembers Frank, Giancarlo, Hanlon, Schiavone and  
Weinstein

Nays: None

Abstain: Councilmember DeJoseph.

(SEE COPIES OF THE AFORESAID ORIGINAL RESOLUTIONS AFFIXED HERETO)

LAST GO ROUND

Councilmember Giancarlo welcomed Councilmember Frank.  
Councilmember Hanlon also welcomed Councilmember Frank.

Councilmember Weinstein said two weeks ago the Regional Board of Ed voted with regard to a referendum which would be a reallocation of the tax formula for the regional high school distributed among four towns. The only dissenting vote was Mr. Alfred Murphy so the vote did pass which means there will be a referendum on September 28, essentially giving the Board of Ed to reallocate the revenues as collected by the funding formula. He and Mayor Arnowitz attended a meeting at River Vale last week and together with River Vale we are looking to educate the residents in River Vale and Hillsdale as to what the real issues are and the implications. We are assembling a team to help us do that and he wanted to begin talking about it now because over time people will understand the most important thing we can do on September 28 is come out and vote our opinion, "No." The financial implications to Hillsdale and River Vale would be

catastrophic. The formula has been in effect since the '70's, it is the same formula used throughout the state. Trying to readjust it doesn't make it right. We will be talking about this more and more as we get details, educate the public. It is the single biggest issue facing us over the next several months.

Councilmember DeJoseph congratulated Councilmember Frank. In July we are looking for input from any resident with regard to possible cell tower on borough-owned property.

Now that we are fully seated on the Council, the Finance Committee could sit down with the Citizens Budget Advisory Committee for discussions. He spoke of a possible reassessment for our taxes depending on how the economy goes. June 10 was a vote in Senate of S-1 which was a third vote, it passed with pretty good results which is COAH reform which could be beneficial for Hillsdale. It was sent to the Assembly and it is now in committee.

Mayor Arnowitz congratulated our newest Councilmember. He asked Councilmember to take over Liaisons; he had a list and everywhere Mayor Arnowitz was listed, it is now changed to Councilmember Frank.

For the July meeting, he asked the Vaccaro-Bergholtz property on the agenda as we have to finalize it. They want the borough to buy the property in the flood zone through Green Acre or Blue Acre funds. Personally, he is not in favor of it but the Council must make the decision.

The Sign Ordinance which Councilmember Schiavone worked diligently on it, either we drop it or we move forward. We cannot let it flounder. The Chamber of Commerce received copies, they have questions, and he would invite them. Our existing sign ordinance is not being enforced. The Chamber of Commerce should be notified and a definite date set up.

Councilmember Weinstein wanted an official invitation to the Chamber to come here and talk about it.

With regard to the school referendum, this town cannot expend tax dollars to push our agenda to get people to vote "No." We will plead with the residents, ask them to talk to their friends and neighbors and get the message out. He is asking key people in every area, seniors, fire, ambulance, people on the street to talk it up. He strongly recommended that people get absentee ballots when available and vote. You can vote absentee if there is a possibility you cannot get to the polls. It is your right but more importantly, it is your pocket book.

Councilmember Weinstein said the way this referendum works is that

if any single town votes it down, the referendum is voted down. Any single town that has one more negative vote than positive vote the referendum goes down. It is important that Hillsdale vote it down.

Mayor Arnowitz wanted a massive vote in both towns. The Mayor of Woodcliff Lake said they are going to Trenton and plead their case through another forum and don't need the referendum. The reason the School Board claims they did the referendum is so that when Woodcliff Lake and Montvale go to Trenton, they can't say we didn't have a referendum because we know the results would be negative. He is hoping for a massive vote in Hillsdale and River Vale voting against it that when they get to Trenton, Trenton will be amazed. If it wins by one vote, who knows what they will do. We need to get the word out, it is imperative, we don't want to take any chances. He will continue to plead from the podium and from the street.

He will be meeting with Councilmember Weinstein tomorrow evening and he is allowed to bring an additional Councilmember. Councilmember Giancarlo will be there at 7:30 PM. Ms. Cron has agreed to help with this endeavor.

He distributed to the Council a letter from Planning Board Attorney Ritvo; he is recommending in Closed Session a discussion on this. It is state mandated housing that we are to build in town and we are to pay for it. This is the type of thing that goes on behind the scenes. Unfunded mandate.

#### ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Giancarlo, seconded by Councilmember Hanlon, and unanimously carried.

6-22-10

\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert P. Sandt, RMC  
Borough Clerk

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert P. Sandt, RMC

