

## Council

Meeting

March 1, 2011

Minutes of a Council Meeting of the Borough Council held at 7:30 P.M. on Tuesday, March 1, 2011, in the Council Chamber, Hillsdale, New Jersey.

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

## ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEETING

Borough Clerk Sandt stated, "This is a Meeting of the Hillsdale Borough Council on this 1st day of March 2011. Notice of the time and place of this meeting has been provided to The Review, 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:

Borough Clerk Sandt called the roll those present being as follows: Councilmembers DeJoseph, Frank, Giancarlo, Hanlon, Schiavone and Weinstein. Also in attendance Borough Attorney Paul, Borough Engineer Statile.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: On motion by Councilmember Hanlon, seconded by Councilmember Giancarlo, the minutes of the Council Meeting of February 8, 2011, were approved as presented.

PROCLAMATION: Read Across America

## CORRESPONDENCE:

1. FRIENDS OF THE PASCACK BROOK REQUESTING PERMISSION TO USE POLICE BOOTH FOR THE KIDS FISHING CONTEST.

Received and filed on motion by Councilmember Giancarlo, seconded by Councilmember Frank, and unanimously carried.

2. ALLISON BELL, ENDURE TO CURE, REQUESTING USE OF BEECHWOOD PARK FOR A FUNDRAISER EVENT.

Received and filed on motion by Councilmember Giancarlo, seconded by Councilmember Weinstein, and unanimously carried.

Councilmember Giancarlo indicated this was a new request and required discussion by the Council.

Allison Bell, Member of Endure to Cure -  
She said 85% of the money they raise does go to the research that they are funding.

Councilmember Frank said he checked the website and saw the 85% but normally there is a filing most charities have to do and requesting that information from the charity as to exactly the amount being paid for executive salaries and how much is done in fund raising. That would help the Council to make a decision.

Mayor Arnowitz said this will be referred to the March 8 Council meeting.

Ann Cron, 187 Magnolia Avenue -  
She said this request should be coming through the Recreation Commission. If approved, she would have forms to be filled out. The Recreation Commission meets on Thursdays at 7PM and they will take care of a lot of details.

3. BO PETKOVICH, PASCACK VALLEY TRIATHLON, REQUESTING PERMISSION FOR ANNUAL HILLSDALE TRIATHLON.

Received, filed and approved on motion by Councilmember Giancarlo, seconded by Councilmember Weinstein, and unanimously carried.

DISCUSSION:

- 1) Proposal for temporary Cell Tower. (Referred from 1/11/11 meeting).

Mayor Arnowitz said this is the tower that we discussed in the past that was originally proposed across the street at the firehouse in the southwest corner or in the West Lot in the northwest corner by Friendlys. At the last meeting it was mentioned that it could possibly be relocated behind the borough hall to replace the existing tower.

Councilmember DeJoseph said Metro PCS bid on the tower across the

street but were unsuccessful and are looking for another location in the downtown area. The tower behind the borough hall is older and we are looking to replace it with a cell tower and put our radio emergency communications on there as well. They offered approximately \$3000/month rent for \$36,000/year for the land space. That would be for one tenant.

Mayor Arnowitz said this would have to go before the Planning Board for a cursory review. All problems inherent with a tower behind the borough hall are compounded, there are residents in close proximity, however, no residents would be in a direct line. It would be closer to a school, George White. If a communication company can prove a need they have to be accommodated and if they bid three times for a center of town tower, they must have some sort of need. There was a disagreement between the engineers of the availability of putting another platform on the existing tower. The consensus was the tower would not stand the weight and there is not enough room inside the tower for additional cables. It is his understanding there is no room for anyone else on the tower and there is no place on the ground to accommodate the additional equipment without taking away parking which is in short supply for emergency services parking. The proposal would take away three spaces. The west lot by Friendlys takes away three spaces from our merchants.

Councilmember Weinstein said our zoning that applies to our downtown area is different than what applied to the west side proposal but nevertheless, all the issues that were brought up remain the same. He did not find attractive another tower in the middle of town. He is not in favor of cell towers in Hillsdale and he would like the company with the proposal to prove the need if we should decide not to move forward before this goes into a legal battle. He would rather the company come back with their justification before he votes in favor of it.

Councilmember Frank said we cut off discussion of the west side tower before we fully explored the issues. He thought it would be inconsistent and unacceptable for us to proceed with a tower in another part of town. If we reopen this then we should reopen a tower on the west side.

Mayor Arnowitz said it was reported to him that they were surveying the Parkway by Demarest Farms. He believed a tower will go in there. Also, the normal distance between towers is two miles and the distance between the tower that went up in Washington Township to this location was just two miles, up from Demarest Farms by Overlook. If they move forward we will not have any say whatsoever as we didn't have any say regarding the two towers that are located on the bridge going across Hillsdale Avenue by the Parkway and

obviously, we will not receive any revenue. We were planning to put up a tree but is less unsightly than what we have behind the firehouse. The Parkway does not allow trees on the Parkway property.

If the Council agrees that you would like some information from Metro PCS he will have Councilmember DeJoseph invite them to a public meeting in April.

Councilmember DeJoseph did not want to invite someone if the Council has no intention to move forward.

Councilmember Schiavone said everyone of these locations have drawbacks and they are using spaces which are a premium for our borough.

Mayor Arnowitz said the Police Chief suggested the tower behind the borough hall which is getting old and would they consider that. Metro PCS would consider that location so that would remove an existing tower and replace it with a new one at approximately 100 ft. Originally they wanted to put a tower on a building at Starbucks.

Non-binding Vote to bring in the company and prove the need for a cell tower in the center of town.

Ayes: Councilmembers DeJoseph, Giancarlo, Hanlon, Schiavone

Nays: Councilmember Weinstein

Abstain: Councilmember Frank

Mayor Arnowitz asked Councilmember DeJoseph to reach out to Metro PCS to attend a meeting, preferably in April.

Councilmember Schiavone asked if a discussion has taken place regarding placement of a tower on the DPW building. It would make it higher up than if it is on the ground, it is away from the schools, there are no hilly areas.

## 2) Smart Wastewater.

Mayor Arnowitz said he attended a Mayors' meeting and a group from Smart Wastewater gave a presentation where they would survey in the town to identify problems within the town as to leakage within the lines. Their survey is free, the equipment they sell you is paid for from the savings. If they don't identify enough savings to pay for their equipment, they won't do the work. There is no up front cost to do this, they place monitors into the lines, they also will identify high end users. Some of our high end users would be the bus company, Waste Management, restaurants in town, churches, high school, Stonybrook pool, supermarkets, nursery schools. We share

some lines with River Vale and the rates haven't been checked. Bergen County Utilities charges to make sure that we are being charged correctly to the flow in and out of the town. The audit is free, the payments are 75% or less based on what we do in the first year, second year, and the equipment is paid for. Then they offer a management system or they train our people at no cost to utilize the equipment we own and equipment can be moved from site to site.

Mayor Arnowitz will contact them and invite them to a meeting to give a presentation.

3) Senior Van.

Mayor Arnowitz has spoken to the Mayor of Washington Township and the Mayor of Oradell who share a van and they didn't have a problem with our joining their van program and it would be a three way split.

Mayor Arnowitz had a conversation with the representative of the county van and the problems he heard about and they are severe with regard to scheduling. These are the two options we have, we can also purchase our own van. Old Tappan has offered to sell us their van but the people he spoke to did not think the van was worth it, it has had many mechanical problems in the past year or so. Old Tappan will keep running the van as long as possible but once it is no longer serviceable, we are out of business. We pay Old Tappan \$675/month rent, we pay a driver and we pay for fuel.

Councilmember Hanlon checked and for two days, there were full loads.

Mayor Arnowitz said if Old Tappan were willing to sell the van now he believes it would be worthwhile but he would have a mechanic inspect it. We should have someone find out what it is truly worth.

Councilmember DeJoseph spoke to the Westwood Administrator who said Tuesday is not good for them but Wednesday is a possibility and he will let us know.

Councilmember Frank said we have some days covered with the county van.

Councilmember Hanlon said it is very difficult with the county van. She spoke with their dispatcher and are having a difficult time scheduling our seniors for Thursdays and Fridays. They claim there is no room and yet the drivers say there is no problem.

Mayor Arnowitz said the county wants to accommodate us.

Councilmember Hanlon would prefer to speak to them personally and would go to the county. We find more seniors are moving in with their families and they are looking for transportation.

Mayor Arnowitz said he and Councilmember Hanlon will go to the county and argue our point.

Councilmember DeJoseph is looking for a response to Old Tappan about the purchase of the van. We can let the Administrator know we are looking into all of our options.

GENERAL PUBLIC HEARING:

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

Joan Wolckenhauer, 19 Hopkins Street -  
She said the teachers and police should not lose their jobs and union workers because unions helped build this country. There are many teachers in her family, her daughter is a nurse and a son who is a chemical engineer.

Kurt Wolckenhauer, 19 Hopkins Street -  
He realizes you can't go from curb to curb with snow removal but this year we had problems on the street. A fire truck cannot get through with all the snow. If it snows on the 20<sup>th</sup> you can only park on the side of the street with 20 numbers so that way cars won't be parked on both sides and asked if this could be done.

Paul Kearns, 23 Cedar Street -  
He referred to the garbage collection change from a two day a week to a single day a week system. In the last year there has been a reduction in services in the town and understands it will become worse. Our class sizes have been increased in the last year, there have been a reduction in programs within the schools, a one percent increase from the governor is a pittance compared to what a community like Hillsdale is supposed to have. DPW has been cut through attrition but now we have every other Saturday, that is a 50% reduction. Waste Management is not providing services to the community any more, they have become a drain on the community. All the trash from the region comes into this town and he has to have garbage in his backyard until Friday. We talk about 2% but are seeing the impact of the 2% CAPS and the changes that are going to occur aren't done yet. When we talk about changes, employees and services provided by the town there is always the caveat of at this time. The certainty now is that there are going to be structural changes that occur towards the quality of life which has been adversely affected during the past year. Our children are in increased class sizes, there is no more foreign language. We are at a disadvantage and we are continuing and what we are not paying

for now is going to come back. With regard to the senior busing, you must serve the residents of New Jersey and maintain the quality of life in this town.

Kurt Wolckenhauer, 19 Hopkins Street - Starbucks has outside tables and asked if they can be limited to only use half the sidewalk because at times they use the whole sidewalk.

Councilmember Schiavone suggested a marking system where when they first move the tables out, they are marked where they are allowed to be.

Mayor Arnowitz closed the meeting to the public.

ORDINANCES:

<p>Ord. No. 11-06 (Introduction) Amending Construction And Property Maintenance Fees</p>	<p>At the Mayor's request, the Borough Clerk read by title only proposed Ordinance No. 11-06 as follows:  TO AMEND A PORTION OF CHAPTER 138, FEES OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HILLSDALE RELATING TO CERTAIN CONSTRUCTION/PROPERTY MAINTENANCE FEES AND TAX COLLECTOR LIENHOLDER FEE.</p>
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Mayor Arnowitz asked the Council if there was any discussion on the proposed ordinance.

Councilmember Frank said our Construction Code Official put these together based on a survey of what other towns in the area are charging and should bring us in line with them.

Mayor Arnowitz asked the Borough Clerk to read the resolution adopting the ordinance on first reading.

Following is the result of the roll call vote on the foregoing Ordinance No. 11-06:

Ayes: Councilmembers DeJoseph, Frank, Giancarlo, Hanlon,  
Schiavone and Weinstein  
Nays: None

(SEE COPY OF THE AFORESAID ORIGINAL RESOLUTION AFFIXED HERETO)

RESOLUTIONS: (Consent Agenda)

Mayor Arnowitz said we will remove Resolutions 11047 and 11049 from the Consent Agenda.

Borough Engineer Statile requested that Resolution 11048 be removed also.

Councilmember DeJoseph recused himself from Resolution 11050.

Mayor Arnowitz read the Consent Agenda of Resolutions.

11051 Increase Bid Threshold & Appoint a Qualified Purchasing Agent was introduced by Councilmember DeJoseph, seconded by Councilmember Giancarlo.

11052 Authorize Purchase of a Police Car was introduced by Councilmember DeJoseph, seconded by Councilmember Giancarlo.

11053 Authorize Refund of Tax Payment, Block 1315, Lot 6, was introduced by Councilmember DeJoseph, seconded by Councilmember Giancarlo.

11054 Refund Tax Payments was introduced by Councilmember DeJoseph, seconded by Councilmember Giancarlo.

11055 Award Seasonal Opening & Closure of Swim Pool Contract was introduced by Councilmember Giancarlo, seconded by Councilmember DeJoseph.

11056 Green Team Advisory Committee was introduced by Councilmember DeJoseph, seconded by Councilmember Giancarlo.

11057 Raffles License, Pascack Valley High School PFO, Off-Premise 50/50 was introduced by Councilmember DeJoseph, seconded by Councilmember Giancarlo.

11058 Community Development Representative Amended was introduced by Councilmember DeJoseph, seconded by Councilmember Giancarlo.

11059 Dedication by Rider for Snow Removal was introduced by Councilmember DeJoseph, seconded by Councilmember Giancarlo.

11060 Authorize Rejection of all Bids for Operation of Swim Club Concession Stand was introduced by Councilmember DeJoseph, seconded by Councilmember Giancarlo.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

11050 Raffles License - Fire Department, Off-Premise Merchandise Raffle was introduced by Councilmember Giancarlo, seconded by Councilmember Weinstein.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

Abstain: Councilmember DeJoseph

(SEE COPIES OF THE AFORESAID ORIGINAL RESOLUTIONS AFFIXED HERETO)

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Chief Financial Officer report on the Award of the 2011 Bond Issue.

Engineer's Office, Certification of Project & Unit Monitoring.

Board of Health report for the month of February 2011. Received and filed on motion by Councilmember Weinstein, seconded by Councilmember Schiavone, and unanimously carried.

(SEE COPIES OF THE AFORESAID ORIGINAL REPORTS AFFIXED HERETO)

LAST GO ROUND

DPW Superintendent Durie said we have changed our garbage schedule and as of Monday morning we will be beginning our one day a week service for the Borough of Hillsdale which will be divided in the town into four individual sectors until the end of April. We will then start the two day a week garbage pickup until the middle of September. The town will equally have garbage pickup suitable for us and for Waste Management to be able to execute the job properly without having a burden on any one particular day. You will have your garbage picked up either on Monday or Thursday if you had a Monday schedule; if you had Tuesday or Friday pickup you will have one of those two days also. We have a handicapped list which has been forwarded to Waste Management so they will suitably pickup the garbage that will not be brought to the curb. Calls can be made to the Public Works Department or the borough hall if there are any questions.

On March 17, we start our vegetation waste program in the west zone which is the Tuesday/Friday pickup you will have the vegetative waste picked up on Thursday and on Friday it will be the Monday/Thursday pickup. Nothing has changed, it is the way it was

last year and for the past 10 years.

Mayor Arnowitz said Mr. Durie has put a lot of effort into this. He lives on a corner and according to the new pickup, his day would be picked up on Thursday. Would he do Tuesday or Thursday because of his corner location?

Mr. Durie said we have a colored map that we have in both offices and the support people can refer to the map. He received help from his staff that used to pick up garbage over 20 years ago and helped him devise this list to make sure he got it right. They are Patrick Delehanty, Mark Durst and James Grobel.

Mayor Arnowitz wanted this be noted in their folder. A letter can be sent on his behalf to these employees.

Mr. Durie will provide Councilmembers Frank and Hanlon with a list of the seniors and disabled in the event the question arises at a senior luncheon.

He said there was one minor mistake from No. 1 to No. 94 on Large Avenue - that will be a pickup on a Thursday, not a Tuesday, and that will be delivered tomorrow at the front door. There are about 15 homes, he has a flyer, that was the only problem they encountered in the whole town.

Police Chief Stalter thanked Councilmember Frank and Borough Clerk Sandt for getting the last chapter of our Borough Code moving forward. With regard to trash, Swift Reach message went out tonight at 7:30PM informing the residents that the change is taking effect next Monday and that the new instructions, regulations are being mailed out.

With regard to the Proclamation "Read Across America" four of his officers read at the schools on their own time.

He learned this week that Detective Sergeant Farrell a retired juvenile officers was not being replaced. He was disappointed and it was based on where we were financially. The department will do their best and what we have in staffing to maintain the services to juveniles. He asked that we not lose the School Resource Officer because one contact with juveniles is a good thing. Shawn Kavanagh has been doing double duty as Juvenile Detective and working in the schools and has been working sufficiently well and we haven't had any issues. The Lieutenant is picking up some of the slack and will be going to Hackensack Juvenile Court so that Shawn is not pulled from the schools. That had been the function of Detective Sergeant Farrell going to court; Detective Sergeant Francaviglia is picking up some of the slack.

With regard to Swift Reach, he reminded the residents that we get updated phone lists from the company but if a cell phone or business phone was registered, they can go on our hillsdalepolice.com website and there is a link if they want to add a phone, update a phone. We will get more reminders out to people as they change numbers.

Mayor Arnowitz said there is a card available at the Police Department which is your history, your medications, your information so that if there is ever an emergency call in your home, they are recommending that it be posted on your refrigerator so the emergency service people who come in have a quick look as far as medications, problems, medical; none of the information will ever be divulged. Elderly residents could fall and everything is listed and makes it easier for emergency service people to provide the services needed.

#### Gas Leak Pascack Road

Lieutenant Niego said the gas leak has been repaired.

Borough Engineer Statile stated he attended a meeting in Trenton with the State Police due to the federal emergency with the snow we had. The flood gates of hazard mitigation money have now opened up in New Jersey. Normally if a community has a hazard mitigation project they wanted to do, they would send out applications in April and May. They set aside about 10 million dollars nationwide every year and because a snow emergency was declared, the federal government automatically opens up the hazard mitigation bank with more money and we can apply immediately now. It doesn't have to be related to snow; hazard mitigation has several programs which includes property buyouts, demolitions, physical house relocations as well as elevation of houses. Blue Acres would provide you with 25% match for the federal grant, the grant is 75/25. We would get 75% from the federal government and 25% which could come from Blue Acres. Others you could consider would be flood mitigation, it is a slow process.

Mayor Arnowitz said the Council has voted that we don't want to take properties off the tax rolls but if someone wants to raise their house, he would encourage it.

Statile said they would not pay to rebuild the house but to relocate it.

Mayor Arnowitz said one ratable is not terrible, however, seven people contacted him, one being Mrs. Vaccaro, who want us to take over their property. That eats into our taxes and has to be shared by everyone and we have to maintain the property.

He said Blue Acres has this money and they have to spend it, they are offering this person twice what the property is worth and when they are questioned, they have to spend the money.

Statile said they would have to have two appraisals by certified appraisers from the program and they are very tough, they do not give money away. He believed she has not had any offers from anybody because she has no appraisals yet.

The Council will receive a copy of a letter he sent to the DEP regarding United Water and the dam. They are submitting two applications to the State, one they are withholding because of the meeting we had. Another application they forwarded for wetlands disturbances for the work they are doing. He penned a letter to the State saying they have no right to change Church Road bed, that is a public roadway, we own the road, it is in the right-of-way, they have a utility underneath it. If they change, the Mayor has to sign the application to State DEP because we own the street. When United Water says they own the property, they don't own the property. The application is inappropriate plus other technicalities wrong with the application.

He received last week the alternative analysis about the roadway. He did find it was expensive.

Mayor Arnowitz said United Water wants to lower the Church Road road bed so that water can flow over it during heavy storms which would close a major east/west roadway. We have only one road to get out of Hillsdale which was Church Road. If we would repeat Hurricane Floyd with all the circumstances and the lack of Pascack Valley Hospital we wouldn't be able to get to Valley Hospital. He asked the level of the causeway in Woodcliff Lake because the causeway has been closed quite a few times in just heavy winds. United Water still hasn't gotten back to him. If they lower our roadway below the causeway it will be closed more than just a hurricane situation. It is a big concern. He understands Woodcliff Lake is also upset with this plan and firefighters and EMTs in the area are concerned. It is becoming a bigger issue than Hillsdale.

Patterson Street bridge is up for review now at the DEP. We are moving the bridge and the state doesn't like moving bridges and streams, etc. We just have to solve some of their environmental problems and he believes there will be no problem. That project will be about a million and half dollars in construction costs. He expects construction in 2012. The bridge will be moving down stream about 100 ft.

Mayor Arnowitz said our fishing contest is very important and he did not want to mess it up.

Statile said it will make fishing better. We will provide the Council with a proposal for design services which the Council will give to the county for an Interlocal Agreement and the county will reimburse the town for our services. This is not costing Hillsdale anything and the old bridge stays open while the new bridge is being built.

Mayor Arnowitz asked if Lafayette can be included in that project with repairs to the road.

Statile will take that under consideration.

### Ralph Avenue

Statile said we started the surveying of Ralph Avenue because we received the grant for that.

He gave the Council a briefing on all the grants that we have received. From 2006 to 2012 we had about 2.4 million dollars from outside money coming in. With regard to Open Space, his suggestion was to do something you want to do and if you intend to fix a ballfield, as the county for half the money.

Mayor Arnowitz said the problem is the matching funds, we don't have it. There are more pressing issues in the town. If we don't do a road program, eventually it is going to hurt us because the roads continue to deteriorate.

Statile said you have about 10 to 15 years service life on the streets and that is it.

Mayor Arnowitz said these streets will never be eligible for state aid and we are not putting in money in something that will hurt us in the future.

### Council Chamber

Statile said we have \$65,000 CD grant; he has three designs for the podium and it is to make the podium handicapped accessible. It also provides for protection for Councilmembers. In order to improve the camera, if it had to do with handicap it could.

Mayor Arnowitz said he has received complaints that half the time, we are not on the air. They can't hear or see us; that was an old surveillance camera.

Statile said he will approach the county on this subject.

DPW Superintendent Durie said during the budget process he

anticipated we were going to have a road program, we have a problem. He had three collapses in Hillsdale due to weather related situations; Liberty Avenue collapse, there was a steel plate holding up the road, we have to excavate it, we don't have money in the road department budget to be able to cover it because of the amount of labor and material that would take to do this job. We have another road collapse on Highwood Court and another problem with a pipe that was hit by lightning years ago on Cedar Street, it could be extensive, and he would like the engineer to be able to look at before the budget is started because we cannot keep metal plates for two years. Councilmember DeJoseph knows about this and he wrote a letter to the Council last weekend and something needs to be addressed before you decide to eliminate the road program this year. One mile of road was done last year, we have 44 miles of road. These problems happened within the last week or so.

Councilmember DeJoseph said we also have a couple of sidewalks in town, they are not big dollar items, but everything adds up. There are two road collapses, a drainage problem, sidewalks which are trip hazards and need to be addressed.

Mayor Arnowitz said as of this evening, we are \$100,000 short that Councilmember Frank will address. We can't strike the budget yet because we haven't gotten down to the 2% CAP. He has to add additional fuel costs, salt costs, snow removal costs, energy costs and anything we add, something has to be taken away.

Councilmember Weinstein gave an update on the school funding formula. Mayor Blundo of River Vale had noted that Assemblywoman Vandervalk was discussing changes in the school funding formula and was a sponsor of a Bill and Assemblyman Schroeder was a co-sponsor of the Bill. The funding formula being referred to in the newspaper was the State allocation of funds to school districts throughout the State, not our local funding mechanism. Questions came up but that does not affect us and both Assembly persons support our position.

There was an article in the paper where Montvale at their last meeting did have public discussion on whether or not to move forward with any kind of state or county activity to begin the process of dissolving school district and it appears that Montvale is somewhat split among themselves. He felt it was positive news and maybe some good direction in our battle when it materializes.

He spoke with the Hillsdale Board of Ed who are in the process of finalizing their budget and they have also progressed with their negotiations with their local teachers and he has requested that they come to Council and present to us where they stand with their budget, the CAP, negotiations and questions that Council might have

and some of the options in regard to replacing the Superintendent which they are working on now. There are a lot of options that are being discussed and debated.

Councilmember Frank said we have been meeting the past four weeks on the budget and these are open meetings to the public. He said Mr. Kearns concerns were valid and he appreciated what he expressed this evening but the task that is at hand to get through this budget and get the 2% CAP is considerable. A 2% allowance on our tax base would give us an increase of \$166,00 this year and that is what we are allowed to raise the taxes on. We have contractual raises of \$179,000 for our employees which means that takes up more than the allowable increase per the CAP. On top of that we have pensions and a number of other costs, so the costs are going up \$400,000 or \$500,000 that we can't control. We go through the budget line by line by line trying to find out how we can reduce other areas of the budget without significantly affecting the quality of life in Hillsdale. It is not easy and we still have about \$100,000 to go. We need to make structural changes and we are eliminating a lot of the operating supplies and things the departments use. It makes it harder for them to do their job. The garbage pickup is a structural change, closing of the DPW is a structural change and those are things that are going to save us money every year.

Councilmember Hanlon attended the Board of Health meeting tonight and they are going to have their annual Health Fair on April 9<sup>th</sup>. There will be podiatrists, chiropractors, various other persons to speak to. They will have the brown bag and if you want to bring your medications in someone will be there to accept them.

For the seniors, the new flyers from now until June are in the hall showing all the different services available and suggested they take advantage of them. The next senior luncheon is March 16<sup>th</sup>.

Councilmember DeJoseph said he did not know exactly where the project stands on the cell tower addition across the street.

Borough Attorney Paul said he has a comment for closed session.

Councilmember DeJoseph said in the spring we will be conducting a shredding event at the DPW on a Saturday and the electronics dumpster that will be there until further notice. They do charge for this but a gift certificate will be given for whatever the fee is for the recycling item.

Councilmember Schiavone asked the Borough Engineer if he heard about the most recent global conference in Sweden where they introduced cell towers that fit in the palm of your hand. It is a

whole new concept in cell towers and as we continue to struggle where we want to put these monstrosities, she would like to ask these cell companies when they will start investing in these tiny towers so that they are more palatable to everybody for a multitude of reasons.

She agreed with Mr. Kearns philosophically that while the Governor is getting patted on the back for cutting state budgets, the dirt is being pushed to the municipal government and we become the bad guys because now it is no so much staying under a CAP which is a great idea, but at the same time removing every dime the state sent us while the state mandates continue to go up. We are all just sitting here and taking it, all of the municipal governments especially in this area, and being frustrated reducing our services to nothing, hurting our schools and hurting our quality of life. Maybe we should stop taking it. Maybe we should start talking to our municipal neighbors and form coalitions with our neighboring towns and start telling the Governor this approach is not working for us.

Mayor Arnowitz said the Pascack Mayors have already taken that position, we have sent letters on some of these mandates that are not funded. Once this budget process is finished, it will become stronger because we are all struggling in the same vein.

Councilmember Giancarlo thanked the Mayor and Councilmember Frank who are not only saving money but figuring out how the borough works. They have been taking over the Administrator's duties and recommended to go further out before we look for people to fill that position. They get no compensation for that and it takes a lot of time.

We have made a half-million dollar shortfall go down to about \$100,000 and this last \$100,000 is where it gets difficult. This where you start running up against seniors, recreation, DPW and the cuts get a little bit harder. The challenge is you can cut a road program for one year but it will come back and bite you and you may have to spend double.

Mayor Arnowitz thanked the people who made the one day a week garbage program happen. Councilmember Hanlon put in a lot of hours as well as Councilmember Frank; Police Chief; Bob Sandt has taken over so much and he thanked Bob publicly and will continue to thank him. He thanked the office staff and said it has worked very well.

He has been on Council for 24 years and has never had to do what we had to do in the past couple of weeks. In the past it was a matter of passing on taxes, trying to have a happy balance between what people could afford and what we needed to do. Those days are gone,

we are cutting programs; we were counting on some of the money with the cell tower that we lost. We are not doing Town Day, the town concert which the people enjoyed and they will miss it. There will only be two DPW workers scheduled for Memorial Day and the scouts and Legion will help them. We will not have any Holiday parties, breakfasts for the employees; the police overtime was cut. Police lost a person through retirement; two plows at the DPW needed to be replaced, we are replacing one. The Library needed \$26,000 and we cut it out of the budget; he will speak to the attorney and the engineer about the way they bill us because they have to take a hit also. We are going to cut Ambulance by \$1000; Fire Department will be cut and we are not done. We have to discuss the lights at Centennial Field; we received \$4000 from the sports associations to offset the costs but it is a \$37,000 bill for Centennial Field and \$2000 for Beechwood Park. We are looking at every single thing, we will raise parking fees next year and you will get the flavor of what we had to put up with to get to the point where we are still \$100,000 short. Now we have been informed we have some major road problems and we will have to find the money for that in the budget. We are trying our best to make this happen and it will happen.

Councilmember Giancarlo said a lot of things fall outside the CAP so we could make 2% CAP and still pass on a 6% tax increase to the residents. We are not doing that.

CLOSED SESSION

A motion to go to Closed Session was made by Councilmember Hanlon, seconded by Councilmember Giancarlo, and unanimously carried.

3-1-11

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Robert P. Sandt, RMC  
Borough Clerk

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

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Robert P. Sandt, RMC  
Borough Clerk

