

Council

Meeting

May 11, 2010

Minutes of a Council Meeting of the  
Borough Council held at 7:30 P.M. on  
Tuesday, May 11, 2010, in the Council  
Chamber, Hillsdale, New Jersey.

The meeting was called to order by  
Acting-Mayor Weinstein 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 11<sup>h</sup> day of May 2010. 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 Arnowitz, DeJoseph, Giancarlo, Hanlon, Schiavone and Acting-Mayor Weinstein. Also in attendance Borough Attorney Paul.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: On motion by Councilmember Hanlon, seconded by Councilmember Giancarlo, the minutes of the Council Meetings of April 28, 2010, Closed Meeting of April 28, 2010, and Council Meeting of May 4, 2010, were approved as presented.

PROCLAMATION: Scleroderma Awareness Month

PRESENTATION: Pascack Valley High School Girls Basketball Team

2010 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Acting-Mayor Weinstein announced that the proposed Municipal Budget for the year 2010 will now be introduced.

RESOLUTION:

Authorizing the Borough Clerk to read the Budget by Title only.

Motion by Councilmber Hanlon, seconded by Councilmember Schiavone.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Arnowitz, DeJoseph, Giancarlo, Hanlon, Schiavone and Acting-Mayor Weinstein

Nays: None

Borough Clerk read the Budget by title only: "Municipal budget of the Borough of Hillsdale, County of Bergen, for the Fiscal Year 2010."

Borough Clerk Sandt read the Statement of Revenue and Appropriation Summary.

RESOLUTION:

Requesting the Approval of the Director of Local Government Services to Defer School Taxes was introduced by Councilmember DeJoseph, seconded by Councilmember Giancarlo.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Arnowitz, DeJoseph, Giancarlo, Hanlon, Schiavone and Acting-Mayor Weinstein

Nays: None

Councilmember DeJoseph said these are difficult times for everyone and the Council understands this. We are under cap with this year's budget which is 4%. Our spending only increased by \$49,830; our revenue was decreased from state aid by \$305,000. We were able to keep our costs in line with last year which is considered excellent based on contractual obligations, contractual employees. Through attrition we have reduced administrative staff and held salaries not covered by contract. The change in the health benefits carrier continue to provide savings for the Borough through this year. We will work to obtain grants for projects and work with FEMA to recoup costs from the major windstorm and flooding on March 12<sup>th</sup>. We received \$200,000 in discretionary aid from N.J. DOT to resurface Wierimus Lane. The basic cost to the Hillsdale average taxpayer is \$104.22 this year for the municipal budget.

Councilmember Arnowitz said we are using a lot of surplus to make up this budget. If anything occurs throughout the year, we could have a problem. We are postponing repairs that will have to be done eventually, roads especially. He did not believe we put enough in reserve for tax appeals and they can be considerable. This is a very tenuous budget at best and we have to start discussing other areas other than surplus to continue to make the budget. Next year we are facing a 2-1/2% cap and he did not believe the governor will increase payments to the towns. We have to discussing new areas of revenue and cut existing expenses.

Motion:

A motion to Introduce the Municipal Budget was made by Councilmember DeJoseph, seconded by Councilmember Schiavone.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Arnowitz, DeJoseph, Giancarlo, Hanlon, Schiavone and Acting-Mayor Weinstein

Nays: None

Borough Clerk Sandt confirmed to the Acting-Mayor that a copy of the Budget will be forwarded to the Director, State of New Jersey, Department of Community affairs, Division of Local Government Services for certification prior to public hearing and final adoption.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. FIRE DEPARTMENT BOARD OF OFFICERS REQUESTING APPROVAL OF RICHARD SOLIMANDO AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE HILLSDALE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

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

2. FRED WINKLER, NEIL HERING, THANKING THE COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR SUPPORTING THE ANNUAL KIDS FISHING CONTEST.

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

3. FOOTBALL/CHEERLEADING ASSOCIATION REQUESTING PERMISSION TO USE MUNICIPAL LOT FOR CAR WASH ON SATURDAY, JUNE 19, 2010.

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

Councilmember Arnowitz directed the DPW to set up barriers on Friday before the event.

DISCUSSION: None

#### OPEN PUBLIC MEETING

Acting-Mayor Weinstein said the residents here tonight wish to discuss the School Budget. We will open the meeting for discussion later in the meeting on that particular issue. He suggested this portion of the public meeting be kept for non-school school budget related issues.

Alfred J. Murphy, Jr., 5 Cherry Place -  
He asked for an explanation of deferment of the school payment taxes.

Administrator Polce said our CFO left and said the Council would not explain this because it is part of the audit package.

Councilmember Arnowitz said it is part of the collection process.

Mr. Murphy (Contd).  
He did not recall this being done before.

The public portion of the meeting was closed at this time.

#### ORDINANCES:

Ord. No. 10-07 (Introduction)	At the Mayor's request, the Borough	To
Exceed	Clerk read by title only proposed Ordinance	
Municipal		
Budget	No. 10-07 as follows:	
Appropriation	ORDINANCE TO EXCEED MUNICIPAL BUDGET	
Limits & to	APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH	
Establish	A CAP BANK.	
Cap Bank		

Acting-Mayor Weinstein asked the Council if there was any discussion on the proposed Ordinance.

Motion by Councilmember Arnowitz, seconded by Councilmember Hanlon.

Acting-Mayor Weinstein 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. 10-07:

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

Nays: None

(SEE COPY OF THE AFORESAID ORIGINAL RESOLUTION AFFIXED HERETO)

RESOLUTIONS: (Consent Agenda)

Acting-Mayor Weinstein read the Consent Agenda of Resolutions.

10049 Smart Growth Grant was introduced by Councilmember Schiavone, seconded by Councilmember Hanlon.

10066 Payment of Bills was introduced by Councilmember Schiavone, seconded by Councilmember Giancarlo.

10067 Authorizing an Interlocal Agreement with Old Tappan for Senior Van was introduced by Councilmember Schiavone, seconded by Councilmember Giancarlo.

10068 Annual Audit Review Certification was introduced by Councilmember DeJoseph, seconded by Councilmember Hanlon.

10069 Raffles License - St. John the Baptist Church, Off-Premise 50/50 Cash was introduced by Councilmember Schiavone, seconded by Councilmember Giancarlo.

10070 Appointing Local Registrar was introduced by Councilmember Schiavone, seconded by Councilmember Giancarlo.

Acting-Mayor Weinstein removed 10049 Smart Growth Grant and 10067 Interlocal Agreement with Old Tappan for Senior Van and 10068 Annual Audit Review Certification.

Motion to approve 10066, 10069 and 10070 was made by Councilmember Schiavone, seconded by Councilmember Giancarlo.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Arnowitz, DeJoseph, Giancarlo, Hanlon,  
Schiavone and Acting-Mayor Weinstein

Nays: None

Councilmember Arnowitz referred to 10049 - Smart Growth Grant and said this is money to be spent in kind and in cash to look into creating a bike path. He did not believe we can afford the seed money and eventual payment of building the path.

Acting-Mayor Weinstein said this is to fund the Grant Application divided between three towns; River Vale, Old Tappan and Hillsdale, each town coming up with \$3000, half paid in cash and half paid in services. Old Tappan and River Vale have passed their resolution, however, Hillsdale is the primary municipality for this particular resolution.

Councilmember Giancarlo said it is \$1500 to get a potential \$300,000 for Hillsdale. We are responsible for \$3300.

Motion to approve 10049 was made by Councilmember Schiavone, seconded by Councilmember Hanlon.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: DeJoseph, Giancarlo, Hanlon, Schiavone and Acting-Mayor Weinstein

Nays: Councilmember Arnowitz

10067 - Authorizing an Interlocal Agreement with Old Tappan for Senior Van. Councilmember Schiavone said due to tightness of the budget it seems that our expenditures aren't always being fulfilled by the service. She would like a statement in the Resolution saying that we would receive monetary credits from Old Tappan when the van is not available.

Acting-Mayor Weinstein said this Resolution will be removed from the Agenda.

10068 Annual Audit Review Certification.

Councilmember DeJoseph wished to clarify with the Borough Administrator that we are going to go along with the recommendations of the Borough Auditor to enforce TAD 851 the Encumbrance System.

Motion to approve was made by Councilmember DeJoseph, seconded by Councilmember Hanlon.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Arnowitz, DeJoseph, Giancarlo, Hanlon, Schiavone and Acting-Mayor Weinstein

Nays: None

(SEE COPIES OF THE AFORESAID ORIGINAL RESOLUTIONS AFFIXED HERETO)

10071 Defeated School Board Budget Reductions.

Acting-Mayor Weinstein said the Borough voted on the local school

budget and voted it down. The process after that is well-defined by New Jersey State Law. The budget comes to Mayor and Council to review and make specific recommendations back to the Board of Education with regard to how they want to proceed. We have selected a Negotiation Committee from Council which consisted of Acting-Mayor Weinstein, Councilmembers Arnowitz, DeJoseph and we met with representatives of the Board of Education and Superintendent DeNorchia. The Board of Education and Superintendent DeNorchia presented the Council with recommendations. There were several recommendations in three tiers. There were recommendations that were acceptable, more severe cuts and the third tier which the Board of Education was extremely reluctant to present but nevertheless did. The total of those recommendations was approximately \$339,000. Council met last week and the Negotiation Committee presented to the rest of the Council and brought them up to speed on the conversations that occurred and discussed other issues in regard to proceed on Council's position on the budget. That resulted in a letter that went to Mr. DeNorchia which outlined Council's recommendations. The letter was received by Mr. DeNorchia, there have been conversations among the Council and among the Board of Ed, between Council and Board of Ed since, but it brings us to where we are right now. There is a resolution on our agenda, no action has been taken on that resolution yet. The promise to the residents was that there would be discussion and debate and that is what he intends to happen here tonight.

Motion to reopen the meeting to the public for comment on the school budget was made by Councilmember Arnowitz, seconded by Councilmember Giancarlo, and unanimously carried.

Acting-Mayor Weinstein said a negotiation between Council and the Board of Ed, public, all members of Council and all members of the Board of Ed in order to further pursue resolution, compromise and something that works for both sides. That has not been presented to the Council yet other than discussion right now. He would like the discussion to begin tonight, let residents express their thoughts. He would also like to Council to present their thoughts as well. He believed there was some misinformation out there, there are items have been suggested and discussed but he knows have not been discussed. The Resolution we are talking about has not been introduced. The letter as signed by Council went to Mr. DeNorchia and that is what prompted where we are at the moment.

Councilmember Arnowitz received calls from concerned parents about busing. Busing was a proposal made by the School Board and we discussed it last week at the meeting and the Council decided that the safety of the children cutting busing and we have not discussed busing as a potential cut. All day Kindergarten was never presented by the School Board nor was it discussed at any of the

meetings and that is not something we are considering. If we continue on the same vein we will have huge taxes in the coming years. He believed that the school board could appeal and could possibly win and he understands our funding for the schools is lower than surrounding towns but we have to make inroads to start cutting and salaries are the ones considered. Everyone in this town has been hit either severely or moderately by this economic downturn.

Councilmember Giancarlo said there is 9% unemployment and about 20% of the residents are working at reduced hours and everyone is hurting. We were not in favor of cutting busing and we felt the best way to reduce the budget would be a salary freeze and teachers to contribute towards health insurance. The other cuts were basically the first tier cuts the school board recommended. The taxpayers voted and it is our job to listen.

Councilmember Hanlon said the health care contribution is not asking too much. She has difficulty with getting a contract broken, salary freeze, because our police and DPW are under contract.

Councilmember Schiavone said many teachers are here this evening; she thought the salary freeze and health care would be negotiation items that would be presented as possibly teachers sharing in the sacrifice because of the cuts the Governor made so suddenly. Either we would increase everyone's taxes by hundreds of dollars or maybe there is a compromise. Just because it says elimination of increase doesn't mean the teachers union could come back and say how about cutting it down by a quarter or a percent. That would be \$100,000+. If the teachers union came back and said we are not going to touch their wages but ask if they will contribute to health care and what if the teachers contributed 1% to their health care like the rest of society, that would amount to over \$100,000. These are substantial amounts of money and she did not think something like that is unreasonable. She would like to see the discussion go in that direction. We are not going to cut Kindergarten or touch any kind of level in this town, that's the reason everyone lives here.

Councilmember DeJoseph said we understand how important courtesy busing is and the full day Kindergarten. The budget was voted down by the Borough residents by 10%. We have received emails from residents stating they cannot afford any more increases in town. We are in a difficult position right now. We are looking at \$300 increase for the local school, \$245 increase for the regional high school which was passed, \$52 increase for the county and \$100 increase for municipal tax. That amounts to \$712 increase and most people in this town cannot afford that. That is where we stand right now and that is the problem. The residents voted the budget

down and they can't afford it anymore.

Councilmember Hanlon said if and when we look at salary increases, we should not just look at teachers. It has to start at the very top.

Councilmember Giancarlo said if we don't attack the salaries, every year we will get a proposal to eliminate the busing, preschool and we are not attacking the problem. We are not looking at the 4.5% salary increases and someone has to stand up and tackle that.

Acting-Mayor Weinstein said although he sits here as Acting-Mayor, he is still a Councilman and he votes on these issues along with the other Council persons as well. He moved to Hillsdale because of the educational system. It was good then, it is better now due to leadership as shown by the Board of Ed and our Superintendent's office and we have been recognized throughout the state. It is one of the primary reasons our property values remain as high as they are. He understands the financial issues. We need to be extremely careful about the cuts we make. \$900,000 was cut from Hillsdale's budget and he thinks the Board of Ed has made a genuine effort to respond to that by taking cuts that were reflected in the budget that was voted down. Teachers and programs were cut and the people of Hillsdale said it wasn't enough. He feels an ultimatum was presented to the Board of Ed. This has opened up a new dialogue between the Board of Ed and Council and we are getting a response from the town and are getting a better understanding of how to proceed. He would look forward to a public negotiation with the Board of Ed, the public being invited, to see if there are other ways to address issues; cuts to the system but securing the integrity of our educational system as well, but to the satisfaction of the residents.

At this time Acting-Mayor Weinstein invited comments from the audience.

Kristin Martin, 219 Washington Avenue -

She thanked the teachers for being present. It is disappointing to live in a town where people are not backing our children and voting for our budget. We are taking steps backward and is happy to hear kindergarten will not be eliminated and busing will continue.

Eliminating guidance counselors is detrimental because the kids need someone to turn to. The contributions by teachers of 1-1/2% goes to Governor Christie, it does not go to the Board of Ed.

There is no assurance that the money is coming back. Residents voted down the budget because they did not want to pay \$712 in taxes yet we are asking teachers to \$3000 and they don't live in this community. Teachers work 87% of their counterparts but only make 65% of their salaries. She did not think it fair to ask teachers to do stuff because other people in the community are

not. If you drop our budget this year then the potential 2-1/2% cap will follow us forever which means we will never get back this money. Our schools will continually suffer. Opening up contracts, pay freezes, will have a big impact on our children and did not know if this where we want to go.

Al Mugno, 89 Ralph Avenue -

He is a teacher at Norther Highlands Regional High School. He moved to Hillsdale because of the school system. He looked at the scores, rankings, administration, programs and moved to Hillsdale for that reason. If we put our children in day care, it costs us tens of thousands of dollars and you are asking to pay an extra \$300, he didn't think it was a lot. Teachers on an average in New Jersey earn \$57,000; when you take their education and degrees and put it into the professional world, we don't equate to that. We are asking to take a freeze when we are getting a triple whammy. We are educating our children and that is what we are about. This country does not value education as our European counterparts or Asian counterparts. The teachers did not cause a problem, our state government started this years and years ago. He urged the Council to accept the first number of cuts but the salaries and benefits are under contract and asked to wait until the contract is done and then address those issues.

Marie Cartwright, 40 Riverdale Street -

She is a resident for 39 years and is a teacher in the district for 23 years. He can understand the problems that exist from both sides. As a resident she realizes you face much pressure from the residents, as a member of the Board of Ed staff she understands their plight and know that the Board has tried to address the problem. In its attempt to cooperate, the Hillsdale Board has been operating \$600,000 below adequacy. As a member of the negotiating team for many years, it has not always been easy but never adversarial. Teachers have always had a respectful and cooperative attitude at the bargaining table. A year ago, teachers took a new health plan is not as good as the previous plan. This saved the District \$360,000. She knows of no teacher personally who is complaining or opposed to eventually having to pay 1.5% of their salary for medical benefits. Teachers as a group are experiencing many of the hardships brought about by this economy mainly spouses who have lost their jobs. We are not insulated to the difficulties that exist. The same problems being faced by residents are the same problems being faced by the Hillsdale Educational Staff. She is disturbed that the Hillsdale teachers seem to be singled out in this shared sacrifice and urged to fix the situation. People who sit here before you are also victims of the plight that faces New Jersey as a state.

Ron Calabria, 250 Everdell Avenue -

We all know the teachers do a great job, the town is in dire need.

Taxes are outrageous and constantly going up, people in the private sector are suffering job losses and 10% to 15% pay cuts. It would really help the town if teachers could take a one year pay freeze and contribute something to their benefit plan. He is a union supporter, a Teamster Shop Steward, and he knows what goes on in the real world. He knows of three major companies where the Teamsters had to vote to take a 15% pay cut to keep the companies in business and try and save their jobs. It is a hard pill to swallow but the taxpayers of Hillsdale cannot take much more of a tax increase. Senior citizens have lived in this town for 30 or 40 years and are being taxed out of their houses and he hears people say if they can't afford it, let them get out. That is not right, these people have been here their whole life and being taxed out. The residents voted the budget down not because they wanted to but because they had no other choice; they can't take much more of a tax increase.

He asked the salary of Mr. DeNorchia.

Administrator Polce said \$212,000 is confirmed, his salary increase for 2011 will go up to \$225,000.

Mr. Calabria (Contd).

He asked if anyone thought that was outrageous plus his medical benefits and his pension contributions on top of that. Teachers are making \$95,000 and up and another \$25,000 for medical benefits and pension contributions. It is too much. The taxpayers can't take too much more.

Phil Krey, 7 Bluefield Court -

He is a World War II Vet and came to Hillsdale in 1957. We contributed to the building of this school system and they are doing a wonderful job. We sent our kids to private schools and we did not utilize any of the school systems. He thinks it is unfair to look askance at our older people who look at that history and if we ask the teachers to stay with their present salary, will we get a much lower system in the year when they took that 4% reduction. He took a 4% reduction in his pension and Social Security and if he was working, he would do the same job this year as last year and he thinks the teachers would do the same. He is not knocking the teachers of the school system in Hillsdale and he is happy to say he was able to help but there has to be a turnaround. We are seeing numbers that are unsustainable in the future.

Councilmember Schiavone said when we asked about opening contracts, we did include the Superintendent and the administration as well. We certainly don't expect the teachers union to want to look at anything unless the person at the top is going to offer the same, so we did include everyone.

Erin Gomyo, 22 Wilts Avenue -

She is a parent of two graduates, one current student in the Hillsdale schools as well as an employee of the Board of Ed. She is not a union member and has worked with most of the teachers for about 20 years and can attest to their dedication. Hillsdale is fortunate to have had outstanding teachers and some of the finest professionals she has ever known. She does not feel Hillsdale or New Jersey will continue to be so fortunate if we are not willing to pay teachers. Since you cannot legally force the teachers and administrators who have a current bargaining agreement to accept a pay freeze and health care contribution, what are your specific recommendations to effectuate this \$600,000 budget cut. If you try to force this pay cut and health care contributions on the teachers and administrators, are you prepared for the legal fees that will result from the ensuing lawsuits and what the legal fees will mean to the taxpayers who will be forced to bear that burden.

Ellen Davis, a Teacher in Hillsdale, said teachers pay into their pensions, they 5.5% of their salary into the pension. They are not given a pension.

Lynn Catanio, 76 Mountain Avenue, Park Ridge -

She is a product of the Hillsdale school systems, she grew up in this town. She has been teaching for over 25 years and teachers are very dedicated here in Hillsdale. It took the State of New Jersey 15 years to get us into this mess so why should they expect teachers to undo it in one year? AIG and Fanny Mae were given major handouts; we took a lesser plan for our benefits for last year but the insurance company went up 23%. No one wants to go after them. We are one of those few or small population that the Council can control but in all fairness, does that make it o.k.? Why are we who dedicate our lives to your children have the target on our backs.

Christine Jennings, 120 Clinton Avenue -

She is a resident and a teacher for five years. Late last year she was let go but the kids will now have to watch a video and they will have to interact with a video. When they say something wrong in Spanish who is going to correct them? Her daughter going into third grade will have 26 kids in her class. It is difficult to teach 26 kids in a classroom when some have issues. She did paralegal work in New York before teaching in Hillsdale and took a major pay cut. Teachers do this because they love it, not because they make money.

Beverly Rosenstein, 32 Saddlewood Drive -

She was involved in the borough for many years and her children were educated in Hillsdale. We are asking the teachers to be compassionate. We are asking them to hold the line, be compassionate towards your colleagues. Perhaps you could save some

of the jobs of those being let go. She believes the salaries you are receiving are comfortable and not have a hardship if you stay with your present level. That is what we are asking, we are asking you to be compassionate and save some of the jobs of your colleagues.

Jim Hayden, 2 Cherry Hill Court -

He is a resident of Hillsdale but appear before you today as President of the Hillsdale Board of Education. During the 21 years he has served as a board member and a member of the Trustees we have enjoyed a very good relationship with the Council. We came to the Council in good faith and offered over \$330,000 in possible cuts, we carefully explained the ramifications were going to be.

He said some of the larger portions of the reduction the Council is asking for is something that cannot be implemented. We have contracts with everyone of our staff and negotiated those contracts in good faith and vice versa. Some took reductions which have not been explained and others took positions that we required in order to better run our school district and in exchange, we came to a monetary settlement. The two line items you have cannot be implemented and it has been explained to the Borough Attorney. Our attorney told us you cannot unilaterally open up a contract, there is PERC law and there is state law that prohibits that. There is a time and place to have that negotiation and will begin in the fall for the following year. If the Council decides to pass a resolution demanding over \$700,000, he will explain what the Council is asking us to do. We started out with a \$900,000 reduction in state aid and our spending budget only went up \$176,000. Our budget is \$18 million dollars. In the budget we presented, we took out \$435,000 of the \$900,000 state aid that was cut. That represented 10.2 staff people, 19 individuals, including 5.6 teachers. We have saved the community over \$250,000 in some areas. We are raising the in-class ratio to 26 students in a class for 5<sup>th</sup> grade, 25 students in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, 24 students in Kindergarten. Today we are spending \$650,000 less than adequacy which the state defines; we have less than 1-1/2% surplus.

He said the high school budget went down by a greater number than our budget did. There is a message there. If you want to cut \$700,000 out of the budget what is going to go? We cannot legally open contracts so we will have to go somewhere else. We will have to raise class sizes in first grade to 26 and 27, second grade to 26 and 27. If we have more kids move in we can be at 28 kids per class. We are postponing some projects. He did not know what he is supposed to take back to his board. We are very happy to discuss further cuts but in the letter you sent to the Board, you ask us not to reduce personnel, class sizes so he asked before we get together, is there a number the Council has for the board? We cannot freeze salaries; we need some direction.

Borough Attorney Paul said he would look forward to speaking to Mr. Hayden but no one from the Board of Ed approached him. What Mr. Hayden characterized to him as an explanation did not happen, so he said he would look forward to speaking to him individually. He said he should check first with Mr. Paul before making that kind of assertion like that about him.

Blake Marcus, 6 Douglas Drive -

She said you cannot place my children in a class of 26 students. The less amount of students in a classroom the better the students learn. She is not in a bus zone, she pays for busing but doesn't use busing. You cut Spanish and now they will do a year at a TV screen.

Acting-Mayor Weinstein said the cuts she is referring to were part of the Board of Education's budget prior to Council every having any input. This Council has not acted on anything yet, that was the budget presented and voted down. Make sure we keep things clear.

Ms. Marcus (Contd).

If we make changes, make changes that will not affect the students and the teachers who are trying to do their job.

Donna Rosenbaum, 817 Hillside Avenue -

She is a resident as well as a Hillside teacher. We have lived here over 30 years and felt fortunate to live here. The budget was defeated last month, however, that budget was prepared with extreme care and with many substantial cuts. The school system has been operating well below the adequacy and have strived to educate the children of Hillside with less money per child than any of the surrounding towns. Jobs have been lost and valuable programs have been cut. During the last negotiations with the Board of Ed the ATA agreed to move to a lesser and inferior health benefits plan saving the district \$360,000. We have one more year left on the contract and the increase is less than the teachers at the top of the guide who will only be receiving 1.5%. We know concessions will have to be made at the end of the contract. That contract was negotiated in good faith and should not be opened up and are asking the Council to rethink the proposed resolution and return to the agreed upon \$110,416 originally sent in.

Jill Hayden, 272 Ell Road -

She is willing to pay in taxes how much it costs to keep her child in a class that is of reasonable size. She wants to be empathetic and realizes many of the people who voted were elderly. Courtesy busing is not an option for her but parents are very resilient in many ways if they have to carpool. She believed Hillside will suffer.

Meryl Rosenthal, 55 Alpine Terrace -

She thanked the teachers for being present. Economy conditions affect everyone in this room but why are we asking the teachers to shoulder the burden. She asked the community to step up also.

Dyan Thiemann, 155 Demarest Ave -

We are making the teachers the scapegoat. We should be rallying behind our teachers. No one wants to pay more taxes but if we take the teachers pay, our taxes are still going up. Teachers cannot be forced to give back their salary unless they vote on it.

Councilmember DeJoseph asked Ms. Thiemann what she would recommend for the Council or the school board?

Ms. Thiemann (Contd).

There are supplies and there are other things you can look at before you increase the size of a classroom.

Al Metz, 105 Baylor -

He said Jim Hayden has focused on where the discussion needs to lead to. If the Council insists on passing a resolution where the tax levy will require a cut of \$800,000 what is the effect upon the schools?

Roshella Roznitsky, 344 Ell Road -

She said the Board of Ed has done an amazing job with the cuts and have gone to bare bones and minimized what will affect our children. She provided some of her suggestions to the Council.

Leta Gorton, 68 Baylor Avenue -

A lot of good points were made tonight. What has not been discussed is the Governor of New Jersey going out to the public and advising the public to vote "no" on school budgets. She is disappointed for our public officials for not standing up for our staff and for our children.

Councilmember Schiavone expressed her displeasure to our two State Assembly people on what the Governor has done. This is another state mandate that has been passed down without funding.

Debra Rush, 10 Standish Road -

Any cuts to be made here will be cuts that will affect children or the teachers. Everyone is focusing on the children but meanwhile seniors get a free lunch not on a need based program, they don't contribute to the lunch. It is not a necessity. There are discretionary things that the community can give up, such as Town Day. Our educational system in Hillsdale is going down and she didn't want these cuts to further any problems we are having with our education. The scores are troubling and going down every year. Any increase in class size would ultimately destroy the 8<sup>th</sup>

grade math system. The Council needs to look at their budget you should look at what is not material to cut before you look to our children.

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

In this community there are approximately 600+ residents unemployed and approximately 1300 who are under utilized. Seniors pensions have not increased, Social Security has been reduced but have increased the payment for Medicaid and Medicare. Insurance plans have increased and we are witnessing is a good faith effort by the Governor regardless of what you think he is doing to try to solve a nightmare of a problem. Trenton is not sure where they are going to get the money to fund their budget. Negotiations must take place in private when dealing with unions. The Mayor and Council and the School Board have to get back together and things they talk about must be done in private because you are talking about personnel issues which are privileged under the Open Sunshine Law.

Less than 50% of the people who are eligible voted across the state. In Hillsdale, 35% of the electorate turned out and that is the highest number in five years and it is a disgrace. We have men and women fighting around the world on behalf of Democracy. Trenton was borrowing from the Pension Plan; contracts can be broken and New Jersey is close to doing that because if we go bankrupt, all bets are off on contracts.

We need a better job of putting carpools together. He hoped the Board would take tonight not as a criticism from anybody, but everyone wanted them to know their concerns. The Board of Ed and the Council have to get together and do it privately.

John McGoldrick, 25 Cherry Place -

He listed to many of the comments this evening on Channel 77 and felt one more person should be here to speak for the seniors. When he first came to Hillsdale in 1972 he paid \$700/year in taxes. He understands his taxes will be increased another \$700 this year. He has never voted against a Board of Ed budget until this year. There has to be an end as to how the state and the local municipalities are working. He read the budget and noted that they will be eliminating 10.1 teachers and reduce the taxes by \$25,000 in this category, however, we have to increase the benefits we are paying the Hillsdale teachers by ½ of a million dollars. They propose to make up the \$700,000 we will not receive from the state and will make up for that by increasing the taxes on Hillsdale taxpayers. He has no problem with the teachers but has a problem hurting the children. If the teachers would freeze their salaries for one year and participate a little further in the medical program, most of what we are asking our children to give up does not have to be given up. Those teachers do not have to be cut. He said everyone should be asked to freeze in Hillsdale.

Tara Gleason, 26 Palm Street -

She is a resident for 40 years and a teacher. Teachers give back every day; teachers buy their own stickers and she finds she spends up to \$100 for the students she teaches in Fort Lee. It might not be benefits or salary but it is their income they are giving back to our children.

Mr. Smith, Ridgewood, NJ.

Kids come back to Hillsdale because they want their kids educated here. He has been teaching in Hillsdale for 35 years and that is the value of education in Hillsdale.

D. Olson, 46 Stockton Street -

She thanked the teachers, Board of Ed and the Council for all they do. This is difficult work. This is a state problem, there are hundreds of teachers that live in town and work in other districts. There are opportunities to speak to other towns about they are solving this crisis as well.

Eileen Devaney, 36 Hazelwood Avenue

Her daughter's teacher was cut and it is very sad to see her go. She teaches in Emerson who is in the middle of the same thing, there is a lot of support for teachers. She feels it is wrong to open a contract not currently in negotiation status. Next year might be a more difficult year and if a hard cap of 2.5% is put on the towns it will look worse for all towns. She did not think people understand what they are voting for and they need to be informed.

Acting-Weinstein closed the public portion of the meeting.

Acting-Mayor Weinstein said he hoped the Council and the Board of Ed would get together and discuss this further in an open forum.

Councilmember Schiavone said she is not comfortable with this resolution at this time and would be prepared to vote no.

### Motion

Motion to table Resolution 10071 at this time and move for a special meeting after we meet with the school board was made by Councilmember Arnowitz.

Councilmember Arnowitz said he is thrilled that the residents came to this meeting. He appreciated everyone who took the time to state their case. We did not cut the budget two years ago because it was the right thing to do. He was disappointed at the meeting with the school board; the meeting began with \$110,000 cut which \$105,000 reflect school cuts and \$5,000 reflect back on the town

because they want to do away with the resource officer. \$105,000 on an average home represents about \$2.50/month. That is not what he heard the public saying when they voted the budget down. When we had the meeting, the board talked about appealing and he said they can do this and we send a message to the public that something has to be done. He believed we sent a message to the residents and the residents sent a message back to us. To continually say we are going to appeal whenever a suggestion came up is unfair. The school board wanted to cut busing and they would save \$136,000. If the school board cut busing based on our police chief's recommendations, we are going to have to spend about \$60,000 a year in overtime costs to have a police officer at each of the schools morning and night and another \$30,000 on crossing guards to keep the children safe. The school board will save \$136,000 to the taxpayers but on the other hand it will cost taxpayers \$90,000 and jeopardizing the children.

He wanted to defend the senior lunch program. The seniors are asked to donate \$2.00 when they come to the lunch to the food pantry because the food pantry is in need. He said over 50% of the people in town are over 50 and a lot don't have children in the schools. They are being accused of voting down the budget. If that were true, there would not have been a budget passed in all the years he has served for 22 years. The seniors are not voting against the budget because they don't want to pay, they are informed. He did not think the public was informed properly this year as to the aspect of this budget. He did not know there were 10 teachers cut, he thought there were seven. He was appreciative of the fact that a message was sent both to the public and this Council that we can work better together.

If the budget is appealed and we lose, he lost \$2.50/month for the average taxpayer but he sent the message he was trying to send.

Councilmember Hanlon did not believe we had enough dialogue with the Board of Ed. Regarding the test scores, we say we are a superb school yet Mr. Metz and the people watching this evening know about the poor scores. She was not aware of this, she did see some things in the paper but this was eye opening. As a former teacher she was bothered that this was made public in that way. Something should be done about the test scores. She was strongly in favor of having more meetings with the Board of Ed and she believed it would be compassionate on the part of teachers to contribute to health care; our police and DPW are doing so and we have frozen the salaries of our non-contractual staff.

Councilmember Schiavone seconded Councilmember Arnowitz's motion to table Resolution 10071.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Councilmember Arnowitz, DeJoseph, Hanlon, Schiavone and  
Acting-Mayor Weinstein  
Nays: Councilmember Giancarlo

Acting-Mayor Weinstein said the Resolution is tabled. We will work with Mr. Hayden to schedule a negotiation between the Board of Ed and Council.

He thanked the residents for coming out.

RECESS: Acting-Mayor Weinstein called for a Recess at this time.

RECONVENE:

Present: Councilmembers Arnowitz, DeJoseph, Giancarlo, Hanlon, Schiavone and Acting-Mayor Weinstein

Acting-Mayor Weinstein said Councilmember DeJoseph had a suggestion that the negotiating committee consisting of Councilmembers DeJoseph, Arnowitz and Weinstein meet once again with the Board of Ed prior to a public meeting between the two organization tentatively to take place on Monday. The Council was in agreement.

APPOINTMENT: Mayoral Nominee.

Acting-Mayor Weinstein said the Council needs to appoint a Mayor who fills for the remainder of this year. There would be a special election in November to elect a Mayor to serve the remainder of John Sapanara's term which would be one year.

Borough Clerk Sandt is in receipt of a letter dated May 7, addressed to the Governing Body from the County Committee asking to consider the following names for position of Mayor: Mr. Max Arnowitz, Mr. Mike Giancarlo, Mr. Andy Weinstein.

Acting-Mayor Weinstein said we will make a motion to nominate and then the Council will vote.

Councilmember Giancarlo nominated Max Arnowitz, seconded by Councilmember DeJoseph.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Arnowitz, DeJoseph, Giancarlo  
Nays: Hanlon, Schiavone, Acting-Mayor Weinstein

No nomination made for Councilmember Giancarlo.

Councilmember Schiavone nominated Andy Weinstein, seconded by Councilmember Hanlon.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Hanlon, Schiavone, Acting-Mayor Weinstein

Nays: Arnowitz, DeJoseph, Giancarlo

Borough Clerk Sandt said tie vote.

Borough Attorney Paul said none of these nominations has passed to appointment, therefore, it goes back to the political committee for the next step of action. He instructed Borough Clerk Sandt to instruct the Chairperson of the County Committee.

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Acting-Mayor Weinstein said the showing tonight was great and both sides presented well.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

5-11-10

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Robert P. Sandt, RMC  
Borough Clerk

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

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Robert P. Sandt, RMC  
Borough Clerk