

Council

Meeting

May 4, 2010

Minutes of a Council Meeting of the
Borough Council held at 7:30 P.M. on
Tuesday, May 4, 2010, in the Council
Chamber, Hillsdale, New Jersey.

The meeting was called to order by
Mayor Sapanara 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 4th 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.

Acting-Mayor Weinstein stated for the public's information that John Sapanara has resigned. He has moved out of town and in the interim he, as Council President, will take on the responsibilities as Mayor on a temporary basis as Acting-Mayor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: On motion by Councilmember Giancarlo, seconded by Councilmember Schiavone, the minutes of the Council Meeting of April 13, 2010, were approved as presented.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. DAVID FRANZ, LIBRARY DIRECTOR, SUBMITTING A LIBRARY BOARD RESOLUTION OPPOSING ASSEMBLY BILL A2555.

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

2. ELIZABETH & MARTY WARD OPPOSING ANY PROPERTY ACQUISITION FOR A CIVIC CENTER.

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

3. NICOLE KLAS CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBLE CUTS TO SCHOOL BUDGET.

Received and Filed on motion by Councilmember Hanlon, seconded by Councilmember Giancarlo, and unanimously carried.

DISCUSSION:

1) Sign Ordinance

Councilmember Schiavone said she provided a brief synopsis at the last meeting to the Council and described some of the changes that were to take place. She has the final version which she would like to propose for introduction. Borough Clerk Sandt forwarded the information to the Police Chief, Borough Engineer and Chamber of Commerce. She requested this be placed on the Agenda at the next meeting for introduction and we would be able to comment on the ordinance at that time. This would also provide an ample opportunity for discussion from the public.

Acting-Mayor Weinstein said the Chamber of Commerce does not meet until May 20 so it is preferable to place the introduction of the ordinance for the Council meeting in June. We will target June to have the Chamber of Commerce come in and give us their comments.

Councilmember Arnowitz said Councilmember Schiavone will not be present for the June 1st meeting and suggested the Chamber be invited for the second meeting in June, which is June 7, and we could possibly introduce it the first meeting in July.

2) Board of Education School Budget

Acting-Mayor Weinstein said as a discussion item, we are not going to discuss it for any length of time. Last night, the Negotiation Committee consisting of Councilmembers Arnowitz, DeJoseph and Weinstein, met with Superintendent DeNorchia and members of the local Board of Education. We will go into closed session at the

end of this meeting so that the rest of the Council can be brought up to speed and begin the negotiation process.

On the list of items as presented by the Board of Ed, one item to be cut should the Council decide to vote that way, would be Courtesy Busing. There is an offset to the cost savings if we eliminate it for the local school system. The offset is that there would be an expense incurred by the municipality with regard to additional police officers at three schools. He asked the Police Chief to publicly advise, if there were an elimination of courtesy busing, there are approximately 650 children bused in our local system; about 50 are due to mandate leaving about 600 students with courtesy busing. The vast majority of kids are bused at the moment. The 650 is about 47% of the total student population. We need to take proper steps to insure safety and cooperation.

Police Chief Stalter said courtesy busing is providing a service. Traffic in the morning and dismissal time is short of a disaster and if we eliminate that, we could almost have a doubling of the traffic issues that we have currently. It is not a good scenario. Over the years because of the lack of students walking to school we have eliminated school crossing guards; Magnolia Washington and Kinderkack, Magnolia and Clinton were intersections where we did have school crossing guards. If we have an influx of new students walking, we would have to survey to determine if we have to add school crossing guards.

His biggest concern is in the areas of the schools, especially at dismissal time, the traffic congestion and getting traffic in and out and staffing it with a police officer to direct traffic. We would have to do all three schools and taking an average of overtime rate we could be talking in the area of \$50,000 to \$60,000. There is a potential liability out there and we need to consider if we do a worst case scenario, this is something that would have to be considered.

Many times we have to go to the schools to referee parking disputes, deal with traffic concerns. Smith School and Meadowbrook School have parking lots that are not the size needed for the current population. With regard to Meadowbrook, we could use the Stonybrook lot, we have a crossing guard there; Smith School we have streets behind. At George White we would have problems with parents dropping their kids off a couple of blocks away. We do not have a solution for George White with regard to a parking lot. There are 166 students bused to George White and if we have 160 more cars or even 80 more cars, we don't have a place for them. Then there is the potential for the need of police officers to direct traffic. Our staffing levels are basically at the bare minimum and he does not have the ability to guarantee there would be an officer each day to direct traffic without bringing in

someone to direct traffic on overtime. We would have to put one officer at each school in the morning and afternoon to deal with arrival and dismissal. We would need to do a new survey of our routes to school and then there would be the potential for sidewalk replacement and getting grant money for new sidewalks.

Presently crossing guards work four hours and at \$20/hour, it would be \$80 an intersection per day. The cost would then raise to about \$70,000 to \$80,000. He estimates \$10,000 for crossing guards per intersection. These are potential financial liabilities and we are responsible for the safety of our students walking to school. On a rainy day we have the potential of more cars around the schools.

Councilmember Hanlon asked if there was any discussion regarding courtesy busing being picked up by the people who use the bus. Years ago they paid for busing to the schools.

Acting-Mayor Weinstein said years ago the schools made an attempt to fill vacant seats on existing courtesy bus routes. No new buses were added; it affected approximately 15 students and those families did initially pay on a monthly basis. As the year progressed, families would change their activities or move and it wasn't done on a consistent basis. People were car pooling because kids were not leaving at the right times and that affected a handful. The concept of residents paying for buses stemmed from a group who were on the Smith School side of town who leased a bus themselves. That was separate from any arrangements with the school system and became an administrative issue for families as they moved away and the bus became more expensive for those who used it long term. That is why we don't see it anymore. According to Mr. DeNorchia there are no towns around that have parents securing buses.

Councilmember Arnowitz said Mr. DeNorchia spoke to the bus company and they would not be willing to negotiate a contract directly with the parents. It would have to be administered by the municipality or the school.

Councilmember Schiavone asked if there was any discussion about reducing the busing rather than eliminating it. The buses are never full; they are full at the beginning of the season and ultimately the middle school students stop using the shuttle. The middle school students are older and they can walk, they have sports and don't use the bus after all.

Councilmember Arnowitz said Mr. DeNorchia said because of the school's staggered times for buses, they don't all come and leave at the same time. The savings would be minor to reduce the number of buses.

Acting-Mayor Weinstein said this will be discussed again in Closed Session but wanted to make sure this has been widely discussed.

We did discuss the issue of the teacher's union opening up their contract and accepting any kind of wage freeze. Mr. DeNorchia and the Board of Ed had approached the teachers twice and the request was denied.

Councilmember Giancarlo sees the School Board not showing leadership and passing the buck on the families on the town. This Council froze the salaries of some of the Borough employees this year and people are looking just at this line at \$400 in tax increases. This Council is below cap and it is not the case with the school budget. Passing \$400 on the taxpayers and not asking the teachers to take some sort of leadership is unconscionable.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING

Acting-Mayor Weinstein invited comment from the audience.

Steve Moshac, 41 Rawson Court -

He lives in close proximity to Meadowbrook School and he agreed if school courtesy busing goes away there is a traffic problem right now and it would get worse. Is courtesy busing going away? If the Board of Ed budget is reduced, does the Council have any authority of what is cut and what is not cut.

Michael Brinzey, 33 Highland Avenue -

The Council can present as a whole their distaste for the teachers refusing to comply with the freeze. If the teachers refuse, Mr. DeNorchia could reduce the size of teachers to make up the difference. Some teachers only six or less students in their classes and 80% extra curricular activities could be eliminated. He also suggested that the Council as a whole send a letter to the teachers union with regard to a salary freeze.

Steven Strauss, 31 King Court -

Years ago we did not have courtesy busing in town, we had parents that paid for busing or car pooled. He does not know how much courtesy busing costs but it is a luxury. It does not directly impact the education of children. You could always go back and ask the parents to pay for busing. Children can walk or ride bikes to school, there are no state mandates to provide busing.

He does not share Mr. Brinzey's comments in regard to Mr. DeNorchia. He gets a 9% pay increase for himself, he gets \$45,000 year retirement package annually paid for by the Board for his services. He has a car and other benefits on his package. You should start with the Superintendent with regard to his cuts; his pay increase is greater than the teachers pay increase. He could

freeze his salary or give something back. We should be looking to combine River Vale and Hillsdale high school and elementary school into one system and eliminate administration. You would have less administrators involved in the school system. We don't have enough children to pay for a lot of chiefs.

You could ask how many teacher positions would be lost. We have a lot of classes here with 14 or 15 students, if we go to a higher level of perhaps 20, it won't make a lot of difference. If you lost staff, that is part of the business. Let's be realistic and start off with Mr. DeNorchia.

Kathleen O'Flynn, 324 Liberty Avenue -
She asked the Council of their feelings on making Kindergarten a half day in lieu of a full day.

Jeff Schmoyer, 55 Wilts Avenue -
He was willing as a concerned parent to make a contribution to busing. He asked the Council to make it known to the Board that making actual cuts to academic cuts such as full day Kindergarten to half day would be a disaster. Cutting education is doing a tremendous disservice.

Sonia Kinzler, 7 Nottingham Court, Montvale -
She asked what courtesy busing means. When her daughter went to school she believed that people who lived a certain distance from the school qualified for busing and other people had to make their own arrangements.

Ann Cron, 187 Magnolia Avenue -
She lives 1-1/2 blocks from George White and every year the amount of traffic around that school has grown. People are parked one-half before the actual closing time of the school. She cannot go south on Magnolia Avenue, you cannot turn on Cross Street because cars are parked right up to the corners. It will be a horror if they don't have courtesy busing.

Kevin Glynn, 372 Kinderkamack Road -
He asked why this issue is being considered for closed session. He did not think discussion with the school board as negotiations.

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

RESOLUTIONS: (Consent Agenda)

Acting-Mayor Weinstein read the Consent Agenda of Resolutions.

10059 Authorize Payment of Year End Penalty to Lienholder was introduced by Councilmember Arnowitz, seconded by Councilmember DeJoseph.

10060 Interlocal Agreement Between the Borough of Hillsdale and the Borough of Emerson for Chief Financial Services was introduced by Councilmember Arnowitz, seconded by Councilmember DeJoseph.

10061 Tax Reimbursement Certification was introduced by Councilmember Arnowitz, seconded by Councilmember DeJoseph.

10062 Raffles License - American Legion Post #162, Off Premise Merchandise was introduced by Councilmember Arnowitz, seconded by Councilmember DeJoseph.

10063 Authorize Redemption of Tax Sale Certificate for Block 301, Lot 15, was introduced by Councilmember Arnowitz, seconded by Councilmember DeJoseph.

10064 Raffles License - Pascack Valley H.S. PFO, On Premise Merchandise was introduced by Councilmember Arnowitz, seconded by Councilmember DeJoseph.

10065 Authorize Expert Appraiser Expenditure for Tax Appeal Matters was introduced by Councilmember Arnowitz, seconded by Councilmember DeJoseph.

Motion to approve the foregoing was made by Councilmember Arnowitz, seconded by Councilmember DeJoseph.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

(SEE COPIES OF THE AFORESAID ORIGINAL RESOLUTIONS AFFIXED HERETO)

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Fire Department monthly report for March 2010.

Motion to receive, file and accept was made by Councilmember Schiavone, seconded by Councilmember Giancarlo, and unanimously carried.

Board of Health monthly report for April 2010.

Motion to receive, file and accept was made by Councilmember Hanlon, seconded by Councilmember Giancarlo, and unanimously carried.

(SEE COPIES OF THE AFORESAID ORIGINAL REPORTS AFFIXED HERETO)

Last Go Round

Police Chief Stalter said that last night the Police Auxiliary had five new recruits graduate from the Auxiliary Police Academy. Tomorrow night the Pascack Valley Coalition will have a program at 7PM at Pascack Hills. It is called Pharming in the Garden State and it is Pharming with a "Ph". The most used drugs used today are pharmaceuticals, prescription drugs are abused by our youth. Parents are encouraged to attend.

Downtown on Hillsdale Avenue in the crosswalk on Broadway heading eastbound, there is a steel plate. They just paved for the gas main installation and there will be more activity as that is being repaired. The lane markings at Hillsdale Avenue at Kinderkamack Road for eastbound traffic were done a few weeks ago making the left lane for left turn only seems to be working out well. We put up a message sign and it seems to be working well.

The conduit that connects the substation in Hillsdale to Waldwick putting in new cable, the actual conduit has been found to be deficient in areas. They will be back in town digging holes again on our county roads.

For the Fall, we are hoping that the DEA and State will coordinate the legalities of taking in prescription drugs and it is definitely in the works and we will advertise it.

DPW Superintendent Durie said we will have an electronic drop off starting the 10th of May and conclude the 15th of May with the Boy Scouts coming to the assist in getting electronics out of cars. We will also have a shredding event that morning, the 15th of May, from 9AM to 1PM and there is no limitation on what will be shredded.

He completed the 2009 recycling report for the community and we are at 67% both solid waste and recycling. We are down a bit and he attributes this to lack of advertisement in the paper. We are lower in both areas; we don't believe solid waste is up and recycling is low, but we are off from last year's total. We are urging residents to recycle anything they can, plastics of all types are acceptable including Styrofoam, wax containers such as orange juice, etc. Cardboard is recyclable and is worth a lot of money to Hillsdale and asked residents to put cardboard out on the recycling dates or bring it to the recycling center.

Councilmember DeJoseph said next month in "My Hillsdale" we will have enclosed a flyer which itemizes everything that can be recycled. It will also include bulk items, PVC pipe, chairs,

everything. The recommendation is to leave it out on the curb and Waste Management will remove it.

Borough Engineer Statile said the Master Plan has been adopted by the Planning Board and a formal resolution will be drafted by Attorney Ritvo for the next Planning Board meeting. That plan will then be presented to the Council for their use and guidance. Once the Council receives the Plan they can adopt ordinances recommended in that Plan or they can do nothing. If they wish to have our Planner come in to explain some of the highlights in the Master Plan he can arrange for her to do so. The Planning Board will be adopting the resolution this month.

The Planner has also been working with Attorney Ritvo on negotiations with COAH and our legal action with COAH. The Planner has been working very well in limiting the Borough's exposure both dollar-wise and the COAH plan itself.

D&L Paving will be finishing the square on Hillisdale Avenue and Magnolia Avenue now that Public Service is out. The intersection will also be color coded and striped. The 2009 Road Program will then be completed.

Public Service paved their trenches town, they are still committed to work on some other local streets with gas main extensions. They will be coming back to restripe all the streets and all cross walks. He also urged Public Service to stripe the entire cross walks not just five feet of their trench, particularly downtown. We have no jurisdiction on Hillisdale Avenue to watch the project.

Councilmember Arnowitz said west of Pascack Road on Hillisdale Avenue there is one large area in front of the water company's cabinet but a lot of spots on the street that he believed were caused by the water company. There is another spot on Magnolia and Washington where they replaced the hydrant and tore up the curbing which has to be replaced that will be replaced with macadam.

Borough Engineer Statile said he was aware of this. Also on Hillisdale Avenue when Public Service paved on the eastbound side, they didn't raise the manholes. He would consider that a hazardous condition and he will take photographs and write to Public Service.

Councilmember DeJoseph said the stop bar on Ellen Court was not redone, the entire project, also the cross walk in front of Smith School.

Statile will provide them with a list and photographs.

Councilmember Arnowitz asked if the engineer has heard anything

from the water company on the Church Road project.

Statile said he has not seen anything go out.

Councilmember Arnowitz said he wanted all emergency services to be a part of this project. If we ever have another Floyd catastrophe, we will be isolated if the Woodcliff Lake Road is closed. We do not have a hospital on this side of the dam.

Statile will contact the water company and will advise the Council.

Councilmember DeJoseph said we are going to apply for ADA Grants for the fire house as well as the doors at the borough hall for handicapped accessible.

Statile said the only thing we are qualified for is handicap accessibility. DOT has not come out as yet for trust fund applications as yet. Last year they did not have a sidewalk program. The only area on Hillsdale Avenue that is not complete is from Everdell to Cedar Lane. If that grant becomes available, he will look for it.

Councilmember Arnowitz said the next senior lunch will be May 19, Wednesday, at St. Johns. It is our last lunch at St. Johns and the next will be at Stonybrook. The lunches will resume in September.

He congratulated the Ambulance Corps at the carnival and we had a person who became ill and he was so pleased how well and orderly the Ambulance Corps handled the situation without the least amount of disruption to the patient.

Regarding the purple ribbons in town, that is Relay for Lights that were approved last week, they are all around the trees downtown.

Councilmember Giancarlo congratulated Acting-Mayor Weinstein. He referred to the School Budget and said the teachers salaries are going out at a big clip. This year it is going to be the school bus, next year it might be the Kindergarten class, the year after it will move around to everyone in this room. Unless we confront it with a unified front and show that this Council means business, it will be kids and their families who will suffer. It is not our job to argue both sides of the negotiations, there is experience on this Council and we can meet and decide what is to be done. A one year freeze by any group of employees, union or not, has been done can be done and should be considered. If it is not done, it should be explained to the taxpayers of this town. A large majority of this town voted for cuts and it needs to be confronted.

Councilmember Hanlon said Memorial Parade is on May 31, beginning

at 10:30 at George White School. There will be a meeting Monday morning with all persons involved in running the parade; the Chamber of Commerce are going to blow up 750 to 10000 red, white and blue balloons and she hoped our two newspapers will be downtown to take pictures. We have three marching bands, the robotics team will join us.

Councilmember Schiavone is in receipt of a memorandum from our CFO regarding fire department expenditures. Purchase orders were received from the fire department to repair the 2000 tower truck for a total of \$2700. According to the Chief, there are more bills to come and we only budgeted \$2500. She asked for direction.

Superintendent Durie said this was the repair that was done on the ladder tower. There were two issues, a generator that failed at the Krell Lighting fire; the truck is 1999 and needed a service call from Ruscon Truck who ordered the parts and repaired it. There was an issue with the hydraulics for the stabilizer and a couple of valves had to be replaced and some fittings for the stabilizer on the tower which we have to replace. Otherwise you have an \$850,000 piece of equipment sitting in the fire house of no use. It needs to be operational. We did not know at the time what it would cost because it had to be taken apart and explored and the parts purchased. We service the truck in-house and he believed we will have the truck another year without any problems. It was recertified in 2009 and the truck is ready to go. He believed another \$200 in filters would satisfy the line item for the year.

Councilmember Schiavone said it will be \$400 to \$500 more than what we budgeted for that line item.

Acting-Mayor Weinstein said it should come out of the fire budget.

Councilmember Arnowitz said they will have to find money within the operating budget.

Superintendent Durie said the CFO made a recommendation at the budget meeting that we try to anticipate 27 different vehicles and what it will cost for each vehicle. We should group them so that if you don't spend so much money on one engine, you could spend a little more on the ladder; it would be the same for the police car.

Councilmember Arnowitz was in favor of leaving the budget alone and let them take the money out of the repair item for vehicles.

Superintendent Durie thought this particular item could be covered.

Councilmember DeJoseph said the Green Team is halfway towards

certification. Eight points have been completed towards our 150. Bergen Swan is doing a planting at Westwood County Park on May 15 and 16 for watershed protection. They are looking for volunteers and they can contact Bergen Swan if they wish to do so. There will be Press Release in the paper this week.

He also received information regarding the loader for the DPW and an increase for repairs.

Superintendent Durie said during the budget session he said we lost our loader in the blizzard. We thought it would be \$12,000 or \$13,000 repair, however, he was notified by the company where the loader was purchased eight years ago that the transmission was burned out and it would cost approximately \$22,000. He said that was unacceptable and we are a good customer and we need this fixed. The service manager called him this afternoon and we were able to reduce the \$22,000 bill by about \$6,000. Our bill will be about \$17,000 for the transmission for the loader. They have a state contract and this is the cheapest way to go. They will be rebuilding the existing transmission with used parts. This loader has been exposed to water two times in the park section in Hillsdale and has been used to rescue people.

Councilmember DeJoseph put in the budget for \$13,500.

Councilmember Arnowitz said we are at cap and by law we cannot go over cap. There is no opportunity to add money to a line item to make the repair. This is a problem for the CFO in conjunction with the department head and find the money within the existing budget.

Acting-Mayor Weinstein said the Model Railroad Club Open House is May 22 and 23 from 1PM to 4PM at the train station second floor. He thanked everyone for bearing with him this evening. He is the Acting-Mayor which is a temporary role and an appointment will be made which will take that person through the next general election in November. The residents will be voting for the remainder of John Sapanara's term which is up in 2011.

CLOSED SESSION

A Motion to go to Closed Session was made by Councilmember Arnowitz, seconded by Councilmember Schiavone, and unanimously carried.

OPEN SESSION

A Motion to go to Open Session was made by Councilmember Hanlon, seconded by Councilmember Schiavone, and unanimously carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

5-4-10

Robert P. Sandt, RMC
Borough Clerk

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

Robert P. Sandt, RMC
Borough Clerk