

Council Meeting
May 8, 2012

Minutes of a Council Meeting of the Borough Council held at 7:30 P.M. on Tuesday, May 8, 2012, 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

Mayor Arnowitz stated, "This is a Meeting of the Hillsdale Borough Council on this 8th day of May 2012. 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:

Minicipal Clerk Witkowsi called the roll those present being as follows: Councilmembers Becker, DeRosa, Frank, Giancarlo and Hanlon. Also in attendance Borough Attorney Paul. Absent: Councilmember Capawana.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

On motion by Councilmember Hanlon, seconded by Councilmember Frank, and unanimously carried, the Minutes of the Council Meeting of May 1, 2012, and Closed Meeting of May 1, 2012, were approved as presented.

CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING ON BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR THE 2012 MUNICIPAL BUDGET.

Mayor Arnowitz opened the meeting to the public. Notice of hearing on amendment was advertised three days before the date set therefore under 40a:4-9, on May 4, 2012. If anyone desires to be heard regarding the amendment to the 2012 Municipal budget, please raise your hand to be recognized, come forward to the microphone and state your name and address for the record.

Seeing no one, the public hearing was closed.

RESOLUTION

12088 Adoption of Amendment to the 2012 Municipal Budget.

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

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Frank, Hanlon, and Becker

Nays: Councilmember Giancarlo

Absent: Councilmembers Capawana and DeRosa

12089 Adoption of the 2012 Municipal Budget

Mayor Arnowitz asked if there was any discussion by the Council on this matter.

Councilmember Frank reiterated what he said at the last meeting. Putting together this budget was not an easy task and we utilized a lot of our surplus, more than we are comfortable with doing so. The budget of 2013 will be more difficult. We have been spending more than we are taking in and have been doing for the past several years and filling the gap with surplus. In 2013, we will have a minimal amount of surplus which means we have some very hard choices to make. He said we should rethink and restructure our spending to get real savings without hurting our services; increase the revenue we get in fees within reason to make sure certain functions in town cover the cost; increase the tax base as much as needed. Our task in the next few months is to find ways to improve our surplus by the end of the year and look and investigate seriously all the opportunities for restructuring that will help us get there in 2013. We will be working on what we can do and put together budget recommendations for 2013, we will also prepare a budget letter that will come out and put it on our new website explaining where our revenues come from, etc. It is important that the residents understand what we are dealing with.

He said the budget as proposed is reasonable and fiscally responsible and a reasonable approach to 2012.

Councilmember Becker said she feels this budget is about tight as it is going to get. The increase is very minimal and she hoped everyone understands this.

Councilmember Giancarlo said the budget comes in at 2.456%. He is not going to vote for it, he believed we have an obligation to come in under 2% that is what we said we were going to do. We are borrowing money and he is not comfortable with that. We are talking about incremental changes in some cases it makes a minimal change in the way some things are done in town. He wanted to be on record why he will vote against this budget and did not like the trend of borrowing.

Councilmember DeRosa said a lot of hard recommendations had to be made. People in town are probably saying they are paying more in taxes and getting less in services; over the past few months he has seen the numbers and has attended the meetings and was given a real dose of reality in the form of the Hillsdale budget. Our financial condition is concerning, it is not grave but concerning and has potential to become more serious if not managed correctly. The economy is awful, costs are going up,

contracts negotiated a few years back that have to be honored; the town is about 90% developed and we don't have much to generate more revenue. By law we are obligated to come in at 2% and after looking at all the possibilities, we wouldn't be doing our job if we weren't looking at all the possibilities. We are asking people to do more for less and considering laying people off and restructuring current responsibilities. It is a sacrifice and thanked everyone for making those sacrifices. He will vote for this budget because it seems the prudent thing to do at this time.

Mayor Arnowitz thanked the Finance Committee for their efforts on this budget, it was not an easy task. Our Administrator worked very long and hard to put together this budget. We are hampered by a 2% Cap but coming in at 2.456%; we were allowed to take certain things outside the Cap that we have no control. Water and hydrant fees have gone up 9%, health insurance up by 10%, etc., we have contracts that we are finalizing but the contracts were signed prior to this falling economy. There is no means of making up the surplus. We are signing this budget with about \$400,000 left in surplus. There is no money in this entire budget that would be left over at the end of the year other than possibly snow removal. The town has put off buying necessary capital items and every year we purchased at least one police car. We did not buy any police cars last year; we replaced one the year before because it was burned in a fire. We are not doing roads at the rate we used to do; we are not purchasing bottles for the Fire Department this year, it is not a repairable item and they cannot be used after the expiration date, where is all of this going to come from? This Council will have to make some very difficult decisions over the coming months. We have legal fees that have to be spent, we have to fight the high school that can cost us 1-1/2 million dollars a year if the formula was to change. It is cheaper to fight for the years it would take to get to the Supreme Court than to settle. We have to fight United Water as best we can to make sure we will not get additional flooding.

He will support this budget because he has no alternative. The surplus and spending is frightening; we can't raise taxes by law and that is the problem we face.

He asked for a motion on the resolution to adopt the 2012 Budget.

Motion to adopt the budget was made by Councilmember Frank, seconded by Councilmember Hanlon.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers DeRosa, Frank, Hanlon and Becker

Nays: Councilmember Giancarlo

Absent: Councilmember Capawana

Mayor Arnowitz thanked ex-Mayor Alfred Murphy the Chairperson of the Citizens Advisory Committee who helped us a lot and identified areas that saved some money.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. LETTER OF RESIGNATION FROM LAURA M. MITCHELL, ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION.

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

2. ELECTRONIC MAIL FROM WILLIAM FRANKLIN, TWITTER ACCOUNT FOR HILLSDALE OEM.

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

Councilmember Giancarlo said Mr. Franklin set up a Twitter Account for Office of Emergency Management and we can quickly notify residents of any flooding, weather related issues or public health emergencies.

3. ELECTRONIC MAIL FROM JIM MOLDOW CODE COMPLIANCE COMPLAINTS, 25 & 66 HOPKINS STREET.

Received and filed and will consult with Keith Durie our Code Compliance Officer on motion by Councilmember Frank, seconded by Councilmember Giancarlo, and unanimously carried.

DISCUSSION:

- 1) Memorandum from Christopher Statile, Borough Engineer, Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

Mayor Arnowitz said the state is attempting to take away some of the trust money. There is not enough money to purchase any property but there could be money to rehab some housing under Affordable Housing Act. We never settled on the Patterson Street COAH housing, whether we are going to be liable for the administrative fee yearly and if we are, that is the plan where the money would be taken. He asked if there was enough money to maintain the COAH Housing and do everything we have to do plus we have an affordable housing unit.

Administrator DeJoseph said we have roughly \$55,000 balance in the COAH account so there is plenty of money to cover the agreement for Patterson Street.

Mayor Arnowitz said we have affordable housing at Hillsdale House and with group homes and Patterson Street. A place will have to be found that fits the criteria.

Administrator DeJoseph will work with the Engineer's office.

The Council was unanimously in agreement.

GENERAL PUBLIC HEARING:

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

Thomas Kelly, 41 Sycamore Avenue -

The Fire Department and supporters are upset with what happened last Tuesday night. The Mayor asked the Fire Commissioner if he could give a report on the fire department and he stated that they are doing a lot of training over there and a lot of drinking. The only two reactions were from Councilmember Frank and Hanlon and thanked them for that. The members of the Fire Department were thoroughly upset with the Mayor and Council that no one stood up and defended the Fire Department. We earned the respect of this Mayor and Council and do not appreciate that happening again. He noted that the Fire Department responded to 25 fire calls last month included activated alarms and several brush fires, car fire at Wendy's, mutual aid to Westwood in a multiple dwelling unit with smoke in the building; a car that hit a pump at a gas station. Not all were dire emergencies but could have been and we responded to every one. We put in 320 man hours last month, all volunteer. He noted the drills that were held, repairs completed free of charge. It is appalling that we hear that we were training and drinking and that the public had to hear it and we expect a public apology.

He read a letter from the Hillsdale Volunteer Fire Department, Board of Fire Officers, in a unanimous vote of fire officers present cast a vote of no confidence in Councilman Capawana as a Hillsdale Fire Commissioner. The Hillsdale Volunteer Fire Department, Board of Fire Officers, formally request that a new Council person be immediately assigned as Fire Commissioner.

What we mean by this vote of no confidence is that we feel our representative from the borough no longer has any confidence from this fire department that he can accurately represent us in things that are very important to our operations, to this Mayor and Council, and to the town at large.

He also noted that recently a letter was delivered to the Borough of Cresskill from their Fire Chief saying that they can no longer provide fire services to the Borough of Cresskill Monday to Friday days, they don't have the members, they can't do it. They budgeted approximately \$240,000 to minimally staff the fire department Monday to Friday, 8AM to 4PM. Our fire department really helps and what it would cost to staff a full-time fire department; it is in the area of 1.4 to 2.2 million dollars that these men and women save this borough every year. We are going to stand up for us and residents will stand up for us.

Mayor Arnowitz said he sees a number of scouts and they have to leave early.

Rob Stigliano, 6 Conklin Avenue -

He is the Committee Chairman for Troop 108 and we have a number of scouts who are starting to work on their citizenship and community merit badge. One of the requirements is to take in a Council meeting and observe our town government in action.

Lorrie J. Famoso, 190 Arthur Street -

She is Captain of the Hillsdale Volunteer Ambulance Service.

She is responding to the letter she received from the Mayor and Council last week, in which she was advised that Jeffrey Albourn will not be riding the ambulance during week days effective may 8, 2012. Arrangements are made one month in advance; due to personnel shortages these arrangements are tenuous and she needs much more time than one week in order to attempt to find the necessary coverage. On Monday, May 7, she spoke with Mr. DeJoseph and he agreed to allow Mr. Albourn to continue to ride days for the remainder of May. Moving forward, she expressed her profound disappointment with this governing body. Approximately 13 years ago, the ambulance service was told that any hires to the DPW would be drivers for us. In those 13 years there have been four to five new hires yet the ambulance service has only benefitted from two of them. Chris Wheeler was told he can no longer ride after riding for 2-1/2 years. Mr. Arnowitz, who was a Councilman at the time, publicly stated that as long as he is part of this Council, Mr. Albourn's service will not be discontinued. DPW help is not unique in Hillisdale; in the surrounding communities DPW continues to assist in keeping the ambulances available during the daytime hours. The letter she received stated budget constraints as the reason Mr. Albourn cannot assist any longer. We are only in service two to three days a week and without Mr. Albourn, that number will drop to one to two days a week; the rest of the time the residents will have to depend on an ambulance coming from a surrounding community.

She referred to N.J. Statute 40a:9190.1 which states "the governing body of any municipality shall grant time off from work with pay to municipal employees who are members of a volunteer fire company serving the municipality, volunteers in first aid or rescue squad serving the municipality or volunteers drivers of municipality owned or operated ambulances when such employees are called to respond occurring during hours of their employment. The residents of this town expect more, deserve more, and certainly should receive more. If any of you called 9-1-1 for your loved ones, would you want to wait in excess of 15 minutes for a mutual aid response? She hoped the elected decision makers reconsider this very poor and ill advised decision.

Barbara Blinn, 175 Magnolia Avenue -

She is the proud wife of an ex-chief of the fire department and a mother of two ex-cadets and aunt of a couple of fire fighters and said Tom Kelly covered every aspect of what she wanted to say. Fire department is family, they have been there for her family many times and she agreed that if someone couldn't stand up and defend us, it is a sad day. Walk a mile before you ever say anything against our fire department, you want them there, don't ever put them down. They deserve praise, you should have stood up and said something. She is ashamed that someone would say that.

Adam Hampton, 15 Cross Street -

He is here as a resident and taxpayer and thanked our emergency services for coming out tonight. They are an outstanding people. Tonight he wanted to request that the Mayor and Council pass a resolution to put forth the question to the people of this town as to whether or not the police station should remain open or remain closed. It is a heated issue and the people are passionate about it. Let the people speak; it is not a question of dollars but of services to the borough. People ask when they can have their vote and as a representative of the people of this borough, we are asking the Council tonight to put on a

resolution asking the residents whether or not this is something they want to do. He asked the Mayor if he would allow a resolution to be passed to put this question on a referendum on the ballot in November.

Mayor Arnowitz said no.

Mr. Hampton (Contd).
He respectfully asked why.

Mayor Arnowitz said this board does not rule and run the Borough of Hillsdale to referendum. There was a referendum in November and he ran on the platform of shared services; he said in his brochures and in speeches that he is going to merge services and he is looking at merging the courts; looking to move to Mahwah or Ridgewood for the dispatch center. He told the people he was adamant about maintaining the 2% Cap and keeping taxes down.

Mr. Hampton (Contd).
We had an election in November, that was not a referendum.

Mayor Arnowitz said a meeting was held at the Elks last night; he was requested by the police chief and department heads from the fire department and ambulance to form a committee that he did not want to form. The committee was established by Councilmember Giancarlo and he then heard that a secret meeting was held last night that was not very secret because he received calls wanting to know what was going on. You could have come up to Mahwah last Thursday and look at the facility, that is how you do it. You don't have meetings on it on a Monday night and put out emails that say we have to meet and discuss what we can tell the Council about dispatching, etc. We have to stop them.

Mr. Hampton (Contd).
It is not a secret to anybody, everyone he told has been there. This was not a meeting for the Council. This was a group of emergency services volunteers that wanted to come and speak about what is going on in town. This is a group that wants to go out as a group and petition people to bring this question to a ballot in November and he finds it alarming that after only three meetings the committee has done no work. You specifically feel the committee is not doing their job. How am I not acting in good faith when he has an email from the Borough Administrator advising him to look into a numerous technology question which as of today he has been working on and have it well-documented. He is appointed by the PBA to sit on that committee so if the Mayor wishes to bring someone else in on technology issues, that is fine, but he does represent the Hillsdale PBA and will be at the committee meetings. We will be out petitioning the people and obtaining signatures and we will be presenting this to the borough in the future.

Councilmember Frank said when you say you want to put this as a referendum, what you are saying is that you have no faith in the committee, there is no value to the committee, let's go to the public. If that is the approach we are going to have, it undermines what he thought would be a good faith.

Mr. Hampton (Contd).
As a committee member he would not participate if he felt there was no merit and no information that could be gleaned and things that could be learned from sitting on a committee. The committee was formed to obtain information, determine total

cost, and make recommendations to the Council. Why that same recommendation can't be put out to the public and given to the people as well.

Jason DeGise, 23 Sherwood Drive -

He was not sure but at the May 3rd meeting there might have been inadvertently a breach of the Open Public Meeting Act in Mahwah. He did not see a notification of that meeting.

Mayor Arnowitz was informed by the Chief of Police of a possible broach, he asked the Borough Attorney to look into it, his report back was that it wasn't, it was a County Committee meeting to discuss dispatching. It was not a violation of the Sunshine Law.

Mr. Degise (Contd).

He thought this might be said so he looked up a case in Rutgers law that specifically details committees and advisory boards and it says "if an advisory body is not subject to Sunshine Law such as when a Mayor or Governor meets with department heads or other communities about certain items, however, an advisory board has the power to eliminate options available to decision making or becomes partisan decision making, it then becomes subject to law." How does that differ? What exception are you using in your opinion?

Borough Attorney Paul said he asked what publication he was looking at. He would appreciate a copy of it. Based of what was told to him about the occurrences of that evening, there was a committee meeting and the intent was to be a convening of the committee to gather information to come back to the Mayor and Council for decision and possible action but not for the committee to have any intent to take action as a unit of the governing body in of itself. If anyone has material that can be looked at; he will be in further contact with the chair of the committee to help him because obviously everyone involved wants to be in full compliance with the Sunshine laws. When a committee meets with the purpose of gathering information for the governing body to act, they are not acting on their own.

Mr. DeGise (Contd).

He did not believe the Council did this intentionally but as a part of the public he wants to be informed as to the discussion on dispatch. It is not necessary for the meetings to result in action, mere discussion requires notification.

Borough Attorney Paul said he did not believe that this should become a legal discourse at this point; perhaps if an attorney would come forth with opinions, we could have a discussion. The comments being made is evidence of the fact that taxpayers are not only welcome but it is their right and to come forth according to the order established by the Mayor during this meeting to say whatever is on their minds. However, it seems a legal argument is being brought forth.

Mr. DeGise (Contd).

He asked for better notice in the future. If four Council members are discussing something, under the Sunshine Act there must be notice. He wants to be sure it doesn't happen again.

Mayor Arnowitz said it was the attorney's opinion that we were not in violation but he suggested to the committee that any future meetings only have three people at that meeting from the

Council.

Frank Gluckler, 234 Ell Road -

He served the people of Hillsdale for 53 years. He wondered how many meetings of the fire department that Councilmember Capawana attended before such a biased opinion he made. Should he not have attended more meetings to see if that was true.

Kevin O'Brien, 61 Parkview Drive -

He has come to the Council several times regarding Open Public Publics Requests. He asked about particular standards required for government records retention; he is still waiting for a response from the attorney.

Borough Attorney Paul said Mr. O'Brien has brought forth a number of comments and what he feels are irregularities; he has made OPRA requests, his requests have been addressed; he believes they have not been addressed fully. His further request for things he feels would be more fully compliant is also being looked at and will continue to be looked at; he has not been denied, he has been answered.

Elizabeth Ward, 47 E. Liberty Avenue -

She wished to address the effects of the budget Cap on programs that the average resident might enjoy. She learned of the Environmental Commission's cancellation of the pancake breakfast and was surprised. She asked about the summer concerts at Beechwood Park and asked if any concerts are planned for this year. She knows of a band and will notify the Council and hopefully the concerts will continue. She also suggested the possibility of selling food at the concerts. She said a major portion of our property taxes support the school system; could we interest their glee club in coming down one night for a performance? Just Off Broadway school has acting, dancing, singing and musical theater; possibly a talent show could be put on or something different from the typical entertainment that we have had in the past. Her church choir director has several bands, anything from a 15 piece big band to a nine piece regular dance band, three piece small group. They typically charge \$200 per performer. Possibly a sing along night, movies in the park drive in style and these are a few ideas that she brought forward to consider.

Dan McLaughlin, 310 Washington Avenue -

He said shared services are a very touchy topic and nobody wants to give up anything and we understand that. Perhaps the Council should look at what Demarest did as they were going through the same thing, merging their police department. It was a very argumentative situation and last night after three meetings to put it to the people while they are still investigating. Let's continue working with the committee and when information is available, put it out to the public. If we don't close the police department we have to find means to keep it going. Let the people get involved and he is a concerned taxpayer who lives in town and works in town; our services are better than the county would provide. He believed that if most residents knew the facts and would save \$30/year, they would prefer to keep the building open with civilian dispatchers.

Mark Durst, Fire Chief, Fire Department -

He appreciated the camaraderie that the Fire Department showed tonight, coming out and displaying how we feel about what is happening within the borough and the Fire Department.

Denise Vergnes, 103 Clinton Avenue -

She felt compelled coming to the meeting. Everybody is saying the same thing, we need to get the facts. We want to know the thought process behind the decision, that is all. She wants what is best for Hillsdale and it is a conflict because you are saying we are stuck and we don't know what we are doing for 2014. Why aren't we raising the taxes? If we don't pay for it today, it will be even harder to figure out down the road. Inform the people; no one is challenging this committee saying you are not doing your job, it is telling us what you are finding. Take the facts that are prevalent to this town and do it side by side and tell us. Let's worry about ourselves and not take on the burden of someone else. We need to give the message to our kids, what we believe in, technology or people and our community and taking care of things. Utilize your resources for what they should be; you are going to take away dispatch with a civilian and will be a lot more than someone working in the office here that will have to stop doing what they are doing and pick up the phone and answer when garbage will be picked up. She is looking at numbers and they are not making sense in her head. Regarding the budget and car, we don't need a Hummer, we need a Toyota; five years from now you will be saying we need new technology, new this. Mahwah has more corporate revenue on a tax basis then we will ever have. They are counting on other people coming in to cover their costs. Let's not buy anything more than what we need.

Instead of a referendum, let's get communication out with numbers and facts and quantifying decision processes instead of us against them.

William Blinn, 175 Magnolia Avenue -

He has been with the Fire Department for 38 years and he has watched his father who was a Charter Member spend as much time with the ambulance corps as he did with the fire department in the beginning. Ambulance in this town is very important; during the day you have the DPW built up to actually be a daytime fire crew; most of the employees are with the fire department. If it wasn't for those men it would be very hard to get a fire truck on the road during the day. He has been a first responder and if they weren't here, the delay could be catastrophic. To have one DPW employee for one day or two on call, who are available in case of fire, why not be available for the ambulance as quickly as possible. It is important to have a good crew and asked that they should consider keeping someone on to keep the ambulance available.

He asked if Councilmember Capawana resigned. Being a member of the fire department for as many years as he has, he has not had a single drink. His father was a casual drinker but also a dedicated fireman who put his life on the line many times. It was a very big insult; he didn't blame anyone for his insult. He did not see the letter spoken of this evening, and the word "may have" is a second slap in the face. Such a statement should never have been made, especially regarding the fire department. A personal apology would be a lot better than a letter.

Jim Moldow, 21 Overbrook Place -

We have heard statements about budget cuts, etc. He said our Mayor is the highest paid Mayor in the Pascack Valley. Many Councils in the Pascack Valley have reduced their salaries by

ordinance and many have voluntarily donated all their salaries back to the town. He suggested it would be a good way to give back to the town other than the time you put in.

Mayor Arnowitz asked for a report from Patty Hughes, Stonybrook. She is the Recreation Director, Stonybrook Manager, Social Director, Landscaper.

Patty Hughes said firefighters get 25% off for their volunteering in town. She said we had a rough start, our applications went out extremely late due to a few factors. One was the hold up of the newsletter which is written by the Chairman every year and was not given to her until April 20th. Her paper work went to the printer on March 26. She had misinformation from the printer as to how much money we needed to mail it, we were short, and it ended going out on the 4th of May and due back May 5. We changed to the 15th of May and we changed the voicemail, the website, downtown sign and everything seems o.k. now. Next year we will look into going on line. For the first discounted fee, we have extended the date to May 15; after the 15th, you can still join but it will be a little higher. Our first pool is open, our intermediate pool; we have a few issues, our competition pool motor and pump died and they will be replaced before we open. Our new sign was delivered so no one can steal. Kids took a large rock and smashed through the glass of the new pump house the other night; fortunately the DPW has glass blocks to fix it.

We are working on the first shade structure in all the pools in the Pascack Valley area. It is a three pole design; one pole is eight feet, one pole is nine feet and the other is 10 feet and has a fabric sail that goes over it. It is a very modern-looking shade structure, not like an umbrella and will be put in this coming week. We are putting in lights in the parking lot so that there are lights at night when people go to their cars.

Camp registration is on and ended on Monday. Late joiners will be charged a late fee of \$50. We have 210 kids and she feels there will be more in the month of June. Our summer programs, softball and baseball will be starting with the help of HBSA, all the fields are worked out. She was told Centennial Field could not be used after 6PM and was told by DPW Superintendent that has always been the rule, however, since she has been here we have always used it past 6PM on a Sunday. We give the fields to some of the residents in town who have formed teams.

Mayor Arnowitz said if you feel you need to play on Sunday after 6PM, he suggested that the Recreation Commission speak to Councilmember DeRosa, Liaison, and make a presentation. Invite the neighbors to that meeting and have their input and the Council can make their decision. We made an agreement with the neighbors.

She is working on letters to the town merchants on town events and donations. We have over 327 merchants in town.

Mayor Arnowitz announced to the public that Stonybrook is totally self-sustaining, there is absolutely no expense to the borough. We also receive a stipend from Stonybrook.

Patty Hughes said we got our first set of drawings from the architect this past month with a few changes. He will be back mid-May to show us the changes and we will come to Council in

June to show you the plan. We would go out to bid in July and get the return in August and start at the end of September or October. The second floor of the building is being expanded. There will be an office on the first floor for members to walk into, for handicapped people, strollers and children and there will be a new game area and new front entrance.

After a discussion with the Council, the public portion of the meeting was closed.

RESOLUTIONS: (Consent Agenda)

Mayor Arnowitz said there is a change to Resolution 12101 award of non-fair and open contract for cleaning services to National Maintenance Service, Inc. of Englewood in the amount which is changed from \$38,940 to \$31,476.

Mayor Arnowitz read the Consent Agenda of Resolutions.

12100 Payment of Bills was introduced by Councilmember Hanlon, seconded by Councilmember Giancarlo.

12101 Award of a non-fair and open contract for cleaning services to National Maintenance Service, Inc., of Englewood, NJ in the amount of \$31,476 was introduced by Councilmember Hanlon, seconded by Councilmember Giancarlo.

12102 Award of fair and open contract for Professional Services for Revaluation to Realty Appraisal Company of West New York, NJ in the amount of \$227,480 was introduced by Councilmember Hanlon, seconded by Councilmember Giancarlo.

12103 Supporting the Employment Initiative Program of the New Jersey Employer Support Guard and Reserves was introduced by Councilmember Hanlon, seconded by Councilmember Giancarlo.

12104 Authorizing the Borough Clerk to advertise for Bid Proposals for permanent cell tower located at 371 Washington Avenue, Block 1107/Lot 19 was introduced by Councilmember Hanlon, seconded by Councilmember Giancarlo.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Becker, DeRosa Frank, Giancarlo and Hanlon

Nays: None

Absent: Councilmembers Capawana

(SEE COPIES OF THE AFORESAID ORIGINAL RESOLUTIONS AFFIXED HERETO)

DEPARTMENT REPORTS: None

COUNCIL COMMENTARY

Councilmember Frank said the Firemen's Carnival will be held this week, starting today running through May 12, Saturday. It will be held at the west lot.

The American Legion and Mayor will be soliciting for donations for poppies.

We will have clean up day on the 12th. We will try to cover the whole town. It is a worthwhile project.

After tonight's meeting, he said the Council is not paid enough. These are difficult times in the town and will not get easier. The Council is putting in a lot of time in trying to solve these problems for the future. We need your help and cooperation and need to work together, not against each other.

Councilmember Hanlon thanked Lauren Mitchell for her services on the Environmental Committee. She will be missed. She thanked the Finance Committee for their hard work. She was happy to see the boy scouts here tonight working on their badges. She attended an Eagle Scout ceremony and it is always nice to see the boy scouts and girl scouts are still very active in this town.

She looks forward to working with Elizabeth Ward on the concerts in the park. The Memorial Day Parade met on April 30 and everything is ready to go. The program will be printed and copies distributed. We discussed Mayor and Council dressing uniformly that day, red, white and blue. Councilmember Frank has been checking into golf shirts which would be paid for by the Council members themselves. Senior lunch will be held on May 16; she is working on a flyer with activities.

Councilmember Giancarlo received a letter from a boy scout named Ryan Simpson, Troop 109, about an Eagle Scout Project that he would like to do for the town. It would entail painting street addresses on the curbs in front of houses to aid emergency services responding to calls. It was suggested by Police Officer Adam Hampton. It would need to be finished by June 8 and would need to get started immediately. He was asked for approval.

Mayor Arnowitz said a number of scouts entertained this. Many residents don't want it, especially on the west side of town. It should be run before the DPW Superintendent and the Chief of Police.

Councilmember Giancarlo said he could reply contingent upon checking with the Police Chief and also that the boy scout checks with the family in question. It would be done with a stencil.

Councilmember Hanlon said we have an ordinance on the books that a house number is required.

Mayor Arnowitz suggested that when the scout goes to the homeowner he has something in writing. He believed it is a great idea if the police give permission.

The Council was unanimously in favor of this project.

Councilmember Giancarlo said boy scouts Troop 109 clean up day this Saturday is expanding and we will try to get to the public parks and all around town. Girl scouts are also helping, Environmental and Green Team. We are hoping to have a great turnout which starts at 9AM; supplies will be available as will pizza afterwards. They should wear long sleeved work clothes.

We met at the dispatch center in Mahwah; Captain Mark Lipinski offered an invitation to everyone in the town to go up there. There will be a tour open to the public on Thursday, May 17, at 5PM. at the Bergen County Public Safety Operations Center, 285 Campgaw Road in Mahwah. We will be here in the parking lot at 4:15PM for anyone who needs a ride. He will also see if we can do an in-house tour here a week or two after that.

Mayor Arnowitz said we have been asking for the cost of doing dispatch in-house with the police, dispatch in-house with all dispatchers to include all the expenses incurred for doing that and we have not gotten it as yet.

Councilmember Giancarlo said volunteers do so much for this town; ambulance, fire, OEM, police. He thanked everyone because at the end of the day, you are all volunteers, we all know it but we don't always say it.

Councilmember DeRosa agreed and it was unfortunate that some words were said but it doesn't reflect everyone's opinion. He would like to take up the use and non-use of Centennial Field with the Borough Administrator and Borough Engineer. Most of the time when it rains Centennial is not useable for two or three days and most of the fields in town are. He would like to find out why.

Mayor Arnowitz said the engineers did tell us that there will be a flooding problem because of how you have to build something over a landfill with the clay cap, sand cap, etc. It was another reason we could not put artificial turf on because it constantly sinks. When the field was first built, underground drainage was put in and obviously it wasn't enough. Possibly it would be considered bringing in an engineer who only deals with something like this. Other fields over landfills have similar problems.

Councilmember Becker thanked Lauren Mitchell for her service on the Environmental Commission. She will be sorely missed. She thanked the Fire Department and everyone in town appreciates them. They don't get enough appreciation publicly.

Councilmember Hanlon said the plant sale will be held the Saturday before Mother's Day at the RR Station.

Mayor Arnowitz thanked Councilmember Hanlon for her work on the Memorial Day Parade.

Councilmember Hanlon said savings bonds are not available anymore and we plan to give out Visa Cards as prizes. Every year we have at least a half dozen children who don't pick up their prizes.

Mayor Arnowitz will be meeting with the Administrator, Councilmember Frank and the County Executive to go over the

dollars and costs to go to Bergen County. We are meeting Friday in Hackensack to come up with a price that is acceptable to the town. We are not going to make any commitments but to get numbers and find out the procedure. He is saying this publicly for everyone's information.

This evening he became frustrated; he will not allow people to come up to the microphone and give misinformation. He will not allow people to turn our Council into a circus. We have always run a civil meeting; if someone wishes to make threats to the town as certain people have, he will not entertain those threats. We work very hard here and he works hard being your Mayor. He doesn't care what other towns get or what they do, he cares what is best for the residents of this town and what we do is for the best for Hillisdale. He finally serves with a Council that doesn't care about re-elections, they are not political and everything they do seems to be directly towards what is good for the residents of Hillisdale and he wants to see that continue. When someone says his salary is too high and writes letters to the Editor and makes those kinds of comments without finding out what other Mayors receive either directly or indirectly, that is wrong. When someone comes up here and says we overcharge for things that he has requested a refund and we realized the mistake that was made and adjusted it, and he was informed of that, so be it. When someone ties up the borough hall and new Borough Clerk with email after email and phone call after phone call, he takes offense to that. When he gets calls at his house from various numbers and the call block becomes full because the individual has so many phone numbers and still gets through to his house with inane requests that have been answered, he takes offense to that. We try very hard.

As far as the fire department is concerned and what took place here last week, he hoped what was said wasn't said, but it was said. Was it said in jest or was it said seriously, was it egregious or wasn't it, he will not comment. He knows that Mr. Capawana is a very hard working Council person and his arms were twisted to take this seat because we couldn't find anyone that was willing to put the time in. The original applicant could not run because of the time restraint with his business. Mr. Capawana means well; he will not change Fire Commissioners and if he chooses to leave the Fire Department, he will accept his resignation from the Fire Department and put someone else in there. When he went there many years ago to straighten them out, he was treated so nicely by the membership that he ended up joining because he saw a family atmosphere there and saw some very good things.

He asked residents to come to the carnival as that is the only source of income for the fire department to be able to continue the programs that they offer such as scholarships for kids in schools, helping our members and other people. We have given money to people in need.

CLOSED MEETING

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

OPEN SESSION

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

5-8-12

Susan Witkowski
Municipal Clerk

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

Susan Witkowski
Municipal Clerk