

Council Meeting  
September 6, 2011

Minutes of a Council Meeting of the  
Borough Council held at 7:30 P.M. on  
Tuesday, September 6, 2011, in the Council  
Chamber, Hillsdale, New Jersey.

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

ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEETING

Borough Clerk Sandt stated, "This is a Meeting of the Hillsdale Borough Council on this 6<sup>th</sup> day of September 2011. Notice of the time and place of this meeting has been provided to The Review, Pascack Press, The Record and Community Life; a copy was posted on the bulletin board outside of this meeting room and provided to any interested parties.

Please notify the Municipal Clerk for any disability requirements necessary for attendance at Mayor and Council meetings. The fire exits are located through the double doors to your left. Please silence all cell phones and pagers.

ROLL CALL:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

On motion by Councilmember Frank, seconded by Councilmember Giancarlo, and unanimously carried, the Minutes of the Council Meeting of August 9, 2011, and Closed Meeting of August 9, 2011, were approved as presented.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. ERIN HAMPTON, 15 CROSS STREET, HAS CONCERNS ABOUT LENGTH AND VOLUME OF FIRE SIREN.

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

Councilmember Frank has reached out to the Chief and Deputy Chief to determine what can be done.

Mayor Arnowitz said the siren is extremely valuable, it is adjustable and has been adjusted. When we have emergencies such as floods, we get

complaints that the sirens are not loud enough because flooding exists elsewhere, not just in the Park Section. The Fire Department will have to take that into consideration, life and quality of life.

Mayor Arnowitz said he received correspondence from the Crossing Guards Association. We have contract negotiations with Crossing Guards, Office Staff and DPW. We will go to Closed Session after this meeting to discuss contracts.

#### DISCUSSION:

##### 1) PSE&G Solar Panels

Mayor Arnowitz said he met with Public Service and the BPU and various state and local groups and Mayors on solar panels in Hillsdale. A week after he met with Public Service and BPU, Public Service reached out and asked for a meeting. He met with them and he escorted them around town to the industrial area, commercial areas and they agreed for the short term they will only put solar panels in areas that are not impacted by residents. For example, Broadway, Hillsdale Avenue from the schools down to Broadway, across Broadway up to TD Bank, the entire industrial center along the RR tracks. He believed they would get enough panels that will conform to their needs and meet Hillsdale's quota. He did not believe there will be panels in front of residents' homes.

This Council supports the concept of solar panels but we do not feel solar panels are the way to go. We offered Public Service an alternative of putting them in one area at Centennial Field on the slopes, however, they are different panels and a different concept. We offered them the Field for \$1.00/year so that they would not put them on our poles. Phase II are fields, on top of borough hall, fire house, etc. and they will pay for that. We will see revenue from these panels.

##### 2) Blue Acres Program.

Mayor Arnowitz said because of the loss of tax revenue, prior Councils did not support the Blue Acres Program. We did support Blue Acres for razing someone's home. After Hurricane Irene, the Council felt differently about this. Residents in the Park Section were devastated, the storm was out of control. He said the Council has to revisit this, discuss it and possibly change the vote. The town would sign off on Blue Acres purchasing the property, Blue Acres would spend federal and state tax dollars to purchase the property and remove the home. Hillsdale would be responsible for the loss of taxes. A small tax incentive is involved and would only involve the 18% we control, not the school taxes. Everyone would have to absorb the loss of taxes and we would have to maintain the lots in a natural state. Approximately 15 people in the Park Section have approached him with interest in the Blue Acre Program. They may not all be eligible as there are eligibility requirements and it doesn't mean there is enough federal money to do this.

Councilmember Weinstein said it is time for the Council to re-evaluate for the general good of the community and the people who have been flooded. We fund that program indirectly through our tax dollars and we should

reconsider.

Councilmember Hanlon agreed and said it is time to revisit the program.

Councilmember Frank said the tax impact is not that great. Assuming 30 homes at half million dollars assessment, it would cost the town \$240,000 in tax revenues. You are probably looking at the municipal portion of \$50,000 assuming everybody goes with it. We should contact FEMA to see if we can get assistance for people filling out the applications.

Councilmember Giancarlo concurred. Many of these homes were 60 years old and that neighborhood has been there as long as United Water had a reservoir. We should investigate and see what the implications are for everyone.

Mayor Arnowitz said there are a few very large homes and he did not believe they were eligible because they are built to meet a 100 year flood.

Councilmember Schiavone also agreed and we should do what we can to help the residents out.

Mayor Arnowitz indicated that any residents who are confused by the forms can reach out to Councilmember Schiavone who will provide assistance.

Councilmember DeJoseph arrived at this time.

#### Motion

Motion to support the Blue Acres Program for not only razing homes but buying homes under the Blue Acre Program was made by Councilmember Hanlon, seconded by Councilmember Weinstein.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

#### 3) Architectural Services for Alteration/Addition to the Stonybrook Offices. (Resolution).

Mayor Arnowitz said the Council was confused with this and did not see a benefit for such an expenditure and why are we going ahead with this.

Councilmember Weinstein said since there isn't a sketch, Jay Campbell can talk about it or we can go ahead and approve the architecture fees and elaborate more on it.

The only office space available for the people who run the organization is upstairs below which is the life guard room. They want to take the life guard room and create more office space there, take the stairs that run outside of the building to the upstairs, remove them to open up the entry area and remove the pillars. The life guard room would be moved to the concrete pad and add a paver patio would become the new game area. Based on staffing, volume, number of families, the working part of the facility is very cramped and this is a way to open up the front of the facility and allow people to come and go. The office would be accessible to people who

can't climb up the stairs and it gives the camp and other rec facilities. They would utilize the space while they are using the facility during the summer. The stairs would run internally from the back of the life guard room up to the second floor. This plan has been discussed by the Stonybrook Commission for a couple of years and they feel they have enough funding on their own to complete the project without going into bond issues or borrowing money. They feel it is critical to functioning; Stonybrook has increased its membership and revenue and volume for the past 10 years and they need space to staff the people who run it day by day.

Engineer Statile said an architect has to sign disclosure forms. He explained what the architect would be required to do. The architect will provide a set of drawings. He needs to go before the Planning Board only for capital project review, no approvals would be necessary. He should have professional liability insurance. His contract should have follow-up services, someone should be overseeing the contract.

Statile will work up all of these revisions and indicate our requirements. He did not believe the second floor needed to be handicap accessible.

Mayor Arnowitz said the Council will not vote on this tonight without discussion or changes to the proposal.

Councilmember Frank said in his conversations with Jay Campbell, he felt the demographics were changing for the pool and concerned about membership going forward and what it is taking to have more families join each year. In light of that, Councilmember Frank thought maybe now is not the right time to expand. How much of the surplus or reserve of Stonybrook will be used to do this?

Councilmember Weinstein said this year exceeded all prior years and their budget included increase in membership and increase in revenue and exceeded budget in both areas. They set aside funds outside of what they provide to the town in lieu of taxes and those funds are their funding mechanism for capital projects. They have several projects on the horizon and decide which one makes the most sense at a particular point in time. They feel this is next in line of importance and prepared for this for the past several years. After this year, he believed there will still be capital funding to begin the next process of what they feel they need. They always have a component for emergency work on pumps and valves which is part of their continuing budget as well. That is separate from the capital funding mechanism.

Councilmember Giancarlo said tonight we talked about the impact of Blue Acres and for something like this, we should hear the membership numbers; we should have a presentation and more facts.

Councilmember Weinstein said the money set aside by Stonybrook is not available to the borough for use in any other capacity. The borough is not coming up with additional funding, this is money that Stonybrook has accumulated from their membership fees over a period of years and is the funding mechanism they used for all improvements seen over the past 10 years.

Mayor Arnowitz said it is not their money; it is taxpayers dollars. We control the budget and for the past three or four years there has been a

bone of contention that Stonybrook has not been paying the proper taxes that the taxpayers have been absorbing. We said we would change that in 2011 but it wasn't changed because of circumstances. That will come in 2012 and he did not know the impact. We have escalators each year in lieu of taxes because taxes go up every year. If they don't bring in enough dollars to make the club work they can use that surplus to offset the shortage and that is what the surplus is for. In essence, it can be the borough's money. We need a presentation from Stonybrook. We are not going to vote on this tonight because we have changes from the Borough Engineer and need to find out how Stonybrook feels about the changes.

Councilmember DeJoseph said this is a non-fair and open contract and this is something to think about as well.

#### GENERAL PUBLIC HEARING:

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

Barbara Ganin, 3 Hopkins Street -

She said she is deflated if it will be difficult to get a buyout. Her second option would be to ask for money to raze her house because Blue Acres does that as well. There are a lot of ifs, so as a third option, Blue Acres purchases her property but the borough must maintain it. She thought it might be in the best interest of the town to have it redeveloped and make it more livable and whether it would bring in more revenue to the town instead of it becoming a useless piece of property.

Mayor Arnowitz said a developer could buy her house, raze it and build a conforming house. Our representatives said they would work diligently to get funds through Blue Acres to buy these homes. Once the application is completed, get it to the proper people and remind them of their commitment to Hillsdale.

Councilmember DeJoseph said Hazard Mitigation Funding from FEMA may possibly be considered and it is worth looking at it. It is for all residents affected.

Tom Kalil, 96 Maple Avenue -

He referred to Beech Street and Maple Avenue and there have been a lot of accidents, overturned cars, etc. Many people walk there and there is a stop sign there covered by a tree. The stop line has not been painted over 10 years, there is no working stop. The road coming from Washington Township slopes down so you don't see the white line. Something needs to be done to the corners. A tree was planted in the park covering the sign Children at Play; the other sign is covered by the woods also. He asked for the town to do something.

He is a member of Ambulance and he praised the Fire Department, DPW and Police in the last storm. He didn't think the people of Hillsdale realize their efforts.

Mark Durst, Chief, Fire Department -

The Fire Department responded in three days to 75 calls, one was for the Valero Gas Station on Broadway where there was a fire in the middle of the storm. Public Service would not come out because weather conditions were

not advantageous to them. Our men were shocked by the electricity because PSE&G would not turn off the power. We are in dangerous conditions and he wanted the borough to realize this.

Mayor Arnowitz thanked the entire department for their work.

Mr. Durst (Contd).

He praised OEM, the Council, the Police Department and praised the way they got the word out to the residents in the area to evacuate. We did not have to put our lives in jeopardy, they listened. We sent the Fire Department into that section of town and they knocked on every door for hours and pleaded with the residents to get out. Many lives were saved.

He works for the DPW and thanks to Councilmember DeJoseph convicts from Bergen County came in and tore everything within out. We have to work in this environment and did not believe it is fair to an employee who has been there for 35 years be subject to the dampness. This should be taken care of for us and we should not have to be involved in repairing our shop, we should be out working on the roads, etc. It is over a week now and we have no one to take care of our problems.

Mayor Arnowitz said this is a job for the Liaison and the DPW Superintendent. He gave them authorization to do what is necessary to get the job done, whether it is overtime for the DPW or bring in outside people. The authorization has been given, getting the walls taken down is a good start. It is not the easiest thing to get an outside company because everyone is flooded. The DPW Superintendent has been instructed to get these things done.

Councilmember DeJoseph said last week the restoration company placed a dehumidifier in the room but couldn't do so because of all the blockage. He will call the restoration company in the morning, however, they are overbooked already and that is the biggest problem. This is our fourth flood this year and this is a very big problem.

Jim Moldow, 21 Overbrook Place -

He expressed his appreciation to the Hillsdale Police, Fire, Ambulance and all who were involved in the flooding. People heeded the evacuation notice and thanked everyone for helping them.

On Sunday we played the charity baseball games and would like to donate the small fund to the Fire Department and the Senior Lunch Program.

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

Jay Campbell was in the audience and Mayor Arnowitz said the Borough Engineer came up with some problems with the contract for Stonybrook and these concerns will have to be reviewed and asked that he come to the Council Meeting next week.

Mayor Arnowitz said that he had no words to say thank you to Superintendent Durie and his men for the work they did during Hurricane Irene. They are an outstanding group of men who take Hillsdale at heart.

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Go Round

DPW Superintendent Durie said as this storm hit we took on five feet of water in the DPW garage. We touched the bottom of our electrical panels at about one inch of water so we were able to get by without replacing all of the electricity. This is the fourth time we gutted the men's changing room and also the coffee room, lunch room and we are upstairs in the office there. We had a meeting with the Mayor and Road Commissioner and all of our managers in getting ourselves together. He received a phone call from a case manager from JIF and they have someone assigned to us but he hasn't arrived as yet. We were able to get the wall in the back of the library in a safe condition, we had to fill a void seven feet deep. He is staging stone at the library and we utilized the sewer jet from the county and washed the parking lot. They opened Wednesday at 10AM.

Friday he took care of the Liberty Avenue trench which was the drop that we had from an underground water situation earlier this year. That is in stone now and we will wait for it to settle before we black top it. It is now passable without any problems.

We lost a number of things in the flood, we never expected five feet of water; we lost air compressors, steam cleaners, etc. We have been able to order some items, we have a long road ahead. We have barricades that we lost, we lost dumpsters in the brook close to Westwood. He has to backfill another situation on Fairview Avenue which has a very deep trench. We are moving along as best we can. We filled about seven dumpsters in the Park section and two on Hopkins Street. We will scour the section of town that was affected by the flooding and hopefully we will have all the debris off the streets.

The only section of town he has not addressed is Ruckman section of town because we ran out of time. We have gone street by street from Craig Road throughout the whole town and picked up anything that came down. He asked the residents to adhere to the vegetative waste program. We have a scrimmage at Memorial Field this week and he hopes to have all the brush removed by Sunday and he has to get the football field lined for Sunday.

Mayor Arnowitz asked if the problem at Memorial Field was fixed.

Superintendent Durie said no, Bill Franklin was to contact the contractor and he is handling it.

Police

Police Chief Stalter said kudos are going out to all the volunteer agencies. In his absence, the Captain took care of everything. During the storm we had six auxiliary members who put in about 50 hours.

Mayor Arnowitz said they did an outstanding job, Captain Niego did an outstanding job. They were professional and did the job that had to be done.

Stalter said we had advance notice that there might be flooding and get the mandatory evacuation ahead of time, get the people out and not put anyone at risk to get someone out. It is in the OEM plan and we have to go by the plan. We did about 84 hours overtime during the storm between police

officers and dispatchers. The expenses will be submitted to FEMA. We had \$6000 in overtime and another \$1300 in reverse 9-1-1 messages; we had nothing to do with the 15 PSE&G messages; that is not a borough expense. We had some damage to a police car but otherwise we came through and we were safe.

Today we started our new police officer, Ramon Cruz, and asked if we can have the public swearing in next Tuesday. He was a Paterson Officer, lives in Little Falls. One comes in and one goes out. Officer McKeever is out for an indeterminate amount of time, he had an accident when he was off duty and is undergoing treatment.

We talked about a pedestrian safety issue and Captain Niego and Sergeant McLaughlin are going to a training session regarding pedestrian decoy enforcement given by the Division of Highway Safety.

School is open and we ask cooperation of the parents not to double, triple and quadruple parking in front of the schools, set up rendezvous areas with their children away from the school so everyone can park legally and safely. The Beech and Maple Avenue intersection signage may be replaced with larger signage. We will evaluate if we need any reconfiguration.

Councilmember Hanlon asked if we can get signage for jay walkers. It is also a problem on Hillsdale Avenue near the deli. She thought it was time for ticketing.

#### Engineer

Borough Engineer Statile made himself available Sunday morning to Emergency Management. When the Pascack Brook was going to crest, he tried to get the crest elevation and water was on the roadway surface to the causeway.

Mayor Arnowitz said emergency management also had trouble with sight seers on that road. That was our only east/west access to any calls on the west side of town and it didn't work very well.

Statile said they are going to lower the causeway and it would be a problem.

Councilmember Weinstein asked how that could still be the plan with the reality the way it is. We know that Hillsdale Avenue was impassable.

Statile said there is no change of action by United Water the past two years. It is a foolish plan and he found out that United Water is going out for bid for construction on the dam project. He was shocked when he heard that.

Councilmember Weinstein asked if the county or state has a say in the emergency situation if they go through with their plan.

Statile said he raised the issue with the state earlier saying they have to consider the safety of the people on the other side of town, not just the people below the dam.

Councilmember Frank said they don't seem to be too concerned about public opinion or public attitude.

Mayor Arnowitz said he did speak to the BPU about the flooding situation and asked for an additional meeting and they agreed. During Irene and through Floyd, if Church Road was closed we literally had no east/west access because Park Ridge was closed. We would have had to go all the way up to Park Ridge come across Pascack Road and then go down. The response time for Ambulance and Fire is ludicrous, people's lives would have been lost.

Statile said when the Blue Acres people come in to buy property, they are going to send in their appraisers. They are tough appraisers so the public should understand that they have to argue and fight for money with these appraisers. He was warning everybody.

Mayor Arnowitz said they will pay 100% of the appraised value of the property; today's appraisal is obviously less than when we did reval and some have fairly high mortgages so they could get less money than they owe on their property. There are limits as to what we have the authority to do and our only job is that we sign off that we are willing to accept the liability of maintaining the property afterwards. Everything else is on the homeowner. The availability of the money is in question; he did not think many people will be eligible because of the height of their homes already. There is nothing to stop them from trying.

Statile said we will taking bids for the road program on September 20, the second round. The cost of asphalt in our own contract was no worse and no better than for several towns so there is no marked difference between one or two towns. We looked at prices and we are not losing any money by not being in cooperative this year.

Mayor Arnowitz said we could possibly have a special Council meeting to award the contract.

### Solar Panels

Councilmember Giancarlo asked if there is the possibility of going back stating we will give industrial area for solar panels. We offered panels in a certain section of town, they don't want that, we made a good faith effort. The money is going back to PSE&G.

Statile said yes but keep in mind that the placement of panels in residential zones is low because there are too many trees. PSE&G want them in commercial zones, he would agree to give them industrial zones and give them 30 or 40 panels and that is it. We could continue the appeal with the BPU. It is up to the Council.

Councilmember DeJoseph said industrial areas are a perfect place for them, not in front of our residents homes.

Statile said if they keep them in the industrial zones that is fine.

Mayor Arnowitz said they were looking for a certain amount of panels in Hillsdale and they are afraid of the ramifications that would be fostered on them from other towns if they acquiesce to our wishes. He showed them ample sites to make their needs met. The areas are not in front of any homes, it was Hillsdale Avenue, Broadway, RR tracks and Patterson Street.

It is a commercial area and an industrial area that we looked at and some of the poles in those areas are not suitable for reasons of trees and equipment already on the poles. Not every pole would have one. We could try but he does not want to end up with panels in front of people's homes because we didn't get enough panels. They claim the problems of icing and emergency services are not factual, if a pole comes down and hits a car you have to be more worried about the electricity from the wires not the panel. As far as icing, there is enough of heat source coming off the panels that the ice will melt. It doesn't hurt to go back but he does not want to muddy the waters because they were very specific that he should not be saying that Hillsdale got any kind of special deal because other towns will complain. He did inform BPU that other towns do not have a power station that we have, they don't have the power sources going over our heads, water sources, gas sources going under our feet, so everything has to be taken into consideration when you look at what we have to put up with.

Engineer Statile said we are not in a rush if it takes a year or so for them to come back to us.

Mayor Arnowitz told them he could not commit to the proposal he made until this council agreed to it. So if the council chooses not to go along with that, he will have to meet with the team again and come up with a better plan, one that suits this town.

Engineer Statile said if we win our appeal with the BPU and other towns feel resentment, we cannot help that. He feels we are in an excellent negotiating position.

Mayor Arnowitz said PSE&G is very concerned when a Mayor reaches out to the BPU and the BPU comes to talk to you and it was evident at our meeting. We complained about the lack of notification. The council has to be agreeable, the Mayor has no power to make such an agreement.

The council was in agreement that they do not want an agreement at this time. The Mayor will advise them they can put up panels in the industrial area, not include Cross Street, New Street and Orchard, but from TD Bank to their substation from Patterson Street to the other side of the industrial zone and that is it. He will reach out to them tomorrow morning.

#### Patterson Street Bridge

Statile said that is being designed presently and next spring things will begin. The county approved funds for this project.

Mayor Arnowitz said when the County Executive and Freeholders were here they met informally with the Borough Engineer who met with the engineer of the bridge. They were anxious to get this project started.

Recess Mayor Arnowitz recessed the meeting at this time.

Reconvene Mayor Arnowitz reconvened the meeting.

ORDINANCES:



Mayor Arnowitz said temporary signs required a permit all along from the old sign ordinance to the new sign ordinance and being issued by the zoning department.

Councilmember Frank said Mr. Durie did not think he could get involved in a heavy duty enforcement.

Mayor Arnowitz said the reason this was done is because our Zoning Official, Mr. Durie, said the sign ordinance did not work, it was not enforceable. When he asked how many summonses were issued and how many cases we lost in court, the answer was zero. Why change something if you haven't tried it? Issue summonses and let the courts decide whether something is enforceable or not. If he is not going to enforce this ordinance why are we wasting everyone's time?

Councilmember Schiavone said this ordinance was submitted to everyone. While she was constructing this new ordinance, she sitting with Tracy and Keith Durie discussing all of these particulars and Tracy was very helpful. She worked with the department and since it started three years ago, our manpower has changed in the office.

Councilmember Frank said Mr. Durie did not say he was not going enforce it but it is going to be time consuming. He is also concerned about all the work that has been put into this and you don't to push it aside and not act on it. Once it is on the books you should be prepared to implement it and enforce it.

Councilmember Schiavone said anything that is a new program will take extra effort and time and if you don't meet any particular time frame, at least the process has begun. It needs to start and this is the indication that it is ready to start.

Councilmember Weinstein said this is created as an enforceable plan, if it doesn't get enforced that is a separate issue for the Council down the road.

Councilmember Schiavone said the previous Council Attorney who was the initiator in telling us it was not enforceable. It came from legal initially. This is how she got started on this. She also stated that this initial draft was written along with the committee that consisted of members of the Chamber of Commerce for a year.

Following is the result of the roll call vote on the foregoing Ordinance No. 11-17:

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

Nays: Councilmember DeJoseph

(SEE COPY OF THE AFORESAID ORIGINAL RESOLUTION AFFIXED HERETO)

Ord. No. 11-18  
(Introduction)  
To Amend

At the Mayor's request, the Borough  
Clerk read by title only proposed Ordinance  
No. 11-18 as follows:

## Chapter 138

## Fees

TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT CHAPTER 138, FEES  
OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HILLSDALE.

Mayor Arnowitz asked the Council if there was any discussion on the proposed ordinance.

Councilmember Weinstein asked whether the thought behind some of the increases were discussed with the Finance Committee and if there was any insight as to the discussions.

Councilmember Hanlon said she spoke to the Board of Health on Section and they felt the \$2.00 increase for dogs and cats was acceptable.

Councilmember DeJoseph said that was based on our fees for the year for that department; Tyco, licensing fees and it is barely a break even without including staff to process the licenses. We end up paying Tyco a flat monthly contract plus on-call fees. Under Section 3, if an Animal Control Officer retrieves a lost dog or cat and hold the animal for collection it is a \$60.00 fee. That is our charge when the vendor comes out for that.

He said commuter parking was discussed during budget meetings.

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

Following is the result of the roll call vote on the foregoing Ordinance No. 11-18:

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

Nays: Councilmember Weinstein

(SEE COPY OF THE AFORESAID ORIGINAL RESOLUTION AFFIXED HERETO)

Ord. No. 11-19

(Introduction)

Amend

Chapter 12

And Chapter 305

At the Mayor's request, the Borough  
Clerk read by title only proposed Ordinance  
No. 11-19 as follows:

AMENDING CHAPTER 12, CONTRACTS, PUBLIC  
PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND CHAPTER 305,  
CONTRIBUTION DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS OF  
THE CODE BOOK OF THE BOROUGH OF HILLSDALE

Mayor Arnowitz asked the Council if there was any discussion on the proposed ordinance, there being no response, the Mayor asked the Borough Clerk to read the resolution adopting the Ordinance on first reading.

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

Following is the result of the roll call vote on the foregoing Ordinance No. 11-19:

Ayes: Councilmembers DeJoseph, Frank, Giancarlo, Hanlon,

Schiavone and Weinstein

Nays: None

(SEE COPY OF THE AFORESAID ORIGINAL RESOLUTION AFFIXED HERETO)

RESOLUTIONS: (Consent Agenda)

Mayor Arnowitz read the Consent Agenda of Resolutions.

Mayor Arnowitz said Resolution 11130 will be discussed separately.

11126 Raffle License, Meadowbrook FFA Assoc., On-Premise Merchandise was introduced by Councilmember DeJoseph, seconded by Councilmember Hanlon.

11127 Refund Various 2011 Tax Payments was introduced by Councilmember DeJoseph, seconded by Councilmember Hanlon.

11128 Tax Overpayment for 2011, Block 1903, Lot 28, was introduced by Councilmember DeJoseph, seconded by Councilmember Hanlon.

11129 Appointing Tax Assessor was introduced by Councilmember DeJoseph, seconded by Councilmember Hanlon.

Motion to approve the foregoing Resolutions on the Consent Agenda was made by Councilmember DeJoseph, seconded by Councilmember Hanlon.

Roll Call Vote on Consent Agenda of Resolutions:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Councilmember Giancarlo

11130 Authorize Waiver of Permit Fees for Victims of Hurricane Irene.

Mayor Arnowitz said he wanted it to be understood that we have certain fees that we cannot waive that are State mandated or Federally mandated. How do we justify flood construction vs. construction. The last time this took place after a normal storm, the inference from the Building Department was that people took advantage of the situation. There has to be a time frame, limitation as to what they can or cannot do. If we waive fees and it becomes substantial, we lose the income that we anticipated. There have to be guidelines before we give a blanket approval.

Councilmember DeJoseph suggested this be presented at the next meeting so that we can get more clarification.

(SEE COPIES OF THE AFORESAID ORIGINAL RESOLUTIONS AFFIXED HERETO)

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Chief Financial Officer report for the month of July 2011.

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

Fire Department report for the month of July 2011.

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

Board of Health report for the month of August 2011.

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

(SEE COPIES OF THE AFORESAID ORIGINAL REPORTS AFFIXED HERETO)

#### COUNCIL COMMENTARY

Councilmember Weinstein thanked the Police, Fire, Ambulance, Police Auxiliary, DPW, OEM, all the emergency services who were out and about the devastation of Hurricane Irene. To see the Pascack Brook flow over Hillsdale Avenue again was unbelievable. Due to the early warning system, protective things put in place especially for the library over the past few years curtailed as much as we could but still suffered some losses.

We have a meeting set up next week with River Vale to dust off and revisit the issue we have in conjunction with River Vale with regard to Montvale and Woodcliff Lake; the issue is not completely gone away but we should get an update from the attorneys to see whether anything has been done that we are not entirely aware of and how we should take any steps if necessary.

The Police Department has brought in a new officer who has four years experience on the Patterson Police Department and brings in a level of maturity with him. He was brought on board through the alternative method which is a less expensive method and the goal is to hit the streets later this month because he brings four years of established service with him.

He said the revenue and number of people signing up at Stonybrook was great and the season has technically closed, although there are some special events through the next several weeks in September. Kudos to that group, they continue to produce a great product widely recognized throughout the Valley.

Mayor Arnowitz wanted to be sure that Stonybrook gives the Council some preliminary numbers earlier so that we can see a budget that shows the fees they are recommending cover their expenses.

Councilmember Frank thanked the Police Department, Fire Department, OEM, and everyone who participated in the battles against the flood and Hurricane Irene. He thanked the Mayor for having the foresight of calling the meeting prior to the flood and to get all of the departments coordinated. The Mayor also fought the fire at the gas station and the effort he put forth personally is significant.

He thanked United Water for showing us that that they can do something to regulate the flow even though they won't admit it was for flooding, they blamed it on the integrity of the dam. They significantly lowered the

water level to the reservoir and despite the heavy rain, we didn't hear some of the evacuation alarms until hours later than we normally would.

Despite what they say, the evidence of what they have done proves that there is a role that they can play in limiting the damage that we get from the floods. This is becoming the new normal which is a frightening thought for us in town to have to continually deal with these kinds of crises every time we have a heavy rainfall. The pressure that the Mayor and Council bring to the BPU and residents of the Park Section is well placed and anything we can do to help them with their efforts should be done.

We are progressing on Town Day. We have sponsors, Seven Eleven, Davey's Locker, Boiling Springs Savings Bank, NVE Bank, TD Bank, Chamber of Commerce; Pascack Bible Church will donate a Moon Walk; Shop Rite is donating food and Starbucks will donate coffee and hot chocolate.

Sunday is the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 911; there will be a ceremony downtown starting at 8:30AM. It will be held in Veterans Park and will last about 45 minutes.

Councilmember Hanlon said she rode to the Library on Sunday and a librarian came out to empty the bin and the rest of the women inside were stacking the shelves. We had minimal damage to our library and it is also due to the fact that our Board Member, Guy Mule, went there and cleared shelves and carted out a lot of the bookcases. On Sunday the ladies went back to the library and restock the shelves on their own time.

Last week she and Councilmember Frank met with the new Superintendent of the High School and we presented a lot of issues that we were concerned with. He presented things he was concerned with. We requested the high school to televise their meetings so that we could get some positive feedback. This is something he will consider. The next evening she went to the elementary board meeting and met Mr. Albano who were meeting with parents about transportation. We do have a meeting the next two Mondays.

Everything is moving along beautifully with Town Day and the flyers are available. Next Tuesday is the Senior Lunch at the pool, it is not a barbecue. We are going to serve Italian from Bensi's and Lepore is supplying us with meatballs and salad; Icecreamery is doing ice cream. That is not costing us any money. Along with that, she thanked Jim Moldow; she went to the ball game on Sunday and it was interesting to watch. They divided up the money and we will receive a check from them.

The Tuesday luncheon Bingo Program is postponed until further notice until the American Legion begins and ends their construction. She asked Community Life to post this in their newspaper.

She attended the Environmental meeting last week and they are full steam ahead on their first Annual Eco Day, Saturday after Town Day which is September 24. It will be held in Beechwood Park; they have numerous speakers and exhibits.

Councilmember DeJoseph thanked all of our employees, volunteers, Police, Police reserve, Fire Department, Ambulance, DPW, OEM and a thank you to the Mayor for setting up a pre-Hurricane meeting as well as a post-Hurricane meeting. We went over everything to make sure we were completely covered. He worked on preliminary damage reports and sent them to JIF and our

insurance agents.

Almost all of our residents who had damage place their items at the curb and whatever was not picked up by the DPW, Waste Management took everything off the curbs perfectly.

On the mandatory evacuation, it is very difficult for residents who live in flood prone areas, but again it helps keep our emergency service members out of harms way.

He requested that vouchers not be signed during a Council meeting.

Mayor Arnowitz felt it was unfair to the public that we are signing vouchers while things are going on at a meeting.

Councilmember Hanlon said if a Councilmember is a working person, they can go into the Borough Hall. There are employees in the borough hall until 6:00PM.

Councilmember DeJoseph requested that vouchers not be given out during a Council meeting, they can come in before or after a meeting.

Mayor Arnowitz said if the vouchers are not signed, you are holding up our merchants who are doing business with us. He asked Councilmembers to make a concerted effort to get in before the meeting or during the week and sign the vouchers.

Borough Clerk Sandt announced that the Council is directing him to advise Finance not to hand out folders at the Council meeting.

Mayor Arnowitz said the vouchers will be here as they always have been but once the meeting begins, you will not sign vouchers.

Councilmember DeJoseph asked about the Fair School Funding Formula from Senator Doherty.

Mayor Arnowitz said he explained the Bill to him and he did not have a problem with it. He said this should be put on the Agenda for next week for approval.

Councilmember Schiavone also acknowledged all of the Emergency Services, all the work they put in, the time during the night, night after night. The volunteers do this as though it is their job as professionals, it is amazing how much they do. Regarding the loss of power, she believed PSE&G was under assumption that Hillsdale had all of their power back; so if you hear that other people in town are getting their power back and you still don't, make a call.

Councilmember Giancarlo also thanked all the emergency personnel, great job, great preparation. At least we went into it prepared.

With regard to vouchers, when we are signing vouchers we are not doing our job as a guardian of tax dollars.

We are trying to institute best accounting practices that go over and beyond. It is new for some associations especially those used to home

rule. They have autonomy and Councils only have so much say over them. Perhaps Councilmember Frank could ask the Citizens Advisory Committee what our accountant is asking for so he can speak to their treasurer so we can have both sides of the story.

He asked where we stand on the topic of Borough Administrator.

Mayor Arnowitz said we have resumes, it is time to start interviewing. The committee consists of Councilmembers Giancarlo, Frank, Mayor Arnowitz, citizen Jerry Miano, and everyone should have received a copy of the resumes we received. He is hoping to put someone on in October.

He thanked everyone for being here and it is an honor to talk about these things and it is an honor to know people care that much. These meetings can get tedious.

Mayor Arnowitz said our Clerk/Administrator/Office Manager/everything else took it upon himself to reach out to the stores that normally flood and the church. It was very well received. He visited the same locations after the flood and they mentioned how pleased they were that Bob Sandt stopped by and asked if there was anything the town could do. He thanked Bob Sandt for that, no one told him to do that.

He thanked the emergency services but he forgot to thank OEM in his letter to the Editor. OEM is an integral part to the whole operation. It was an astronomical task and without Councilmember DeJoseph it couldn't be done. When he needed something, he got it; he got dumpsters and when they were full, he got them emptied. He thanked Councilmember DeJoseph; the Mayor didn't have the time and Councilmember DeJoseph was a God send.

On September 21, he is going to the Pascack Valley High School for a flood meeting. The Mayor of Westwood is setting it up. He thanked United Water for lowering the dam but he was disappointed when they made a comment that they are going to the winter mode. His impression was that if this storm came in June, they would not have done anything. The residents knew that the storm was unavoidable and the flooding was unavoidable but at least make it a little easier for people.

He felt it imperative in any situation that the Mayor hold a pre-meeting; he didn't invite the whole Council because he did not want to make it into a big discussion. He told each department head to buy whatever they needed; we discussed strategy. He said in the future Councilmembers should come to such a meeting and give productive ideas. He is suggesting \$100 stipend to OEM to help pay for the fuel that Bill Franklin burned in his personal vehicle. We pay him a monthly stipend but what he did with his personal vehicle was over and above. Borough Clerk Sandt will handle it.

He went to the Library and talked about what was possibly coming with this Hurricane. The Library was sand bagged by the DPW and supposedly that helped a little. That is something we will do for all future potential storms.

He asked about the Email backup on Opra Requests.

Borough Clerk Sandt said it has been ordered.

Mayor Arnowitz has not had a reply from the county on lowering the speed limit or a survey to lower the speed limit on Hillsdale Avenue. He will be following up on that.

The Search Committee has to do something about the Administrator's position. We have contracts up on Crossing Guards, Office Staff - Councilmembers Frank, Schiavone and Mayor Arnowitz. Dates to negotiate will be set up for negotiations. A Closed Meeting will be held to determine how the Council wants to proceed.

He attended a meeting in Westwood with representatives from United Water, BPU. The press was invited, the entire Westwood Council, they had recorders; three residents from Hillsdale were there. He did not invite them but they showed up. He was asked to go into a side room with the Administrator from Westwood and the Mayor. He saw Rich Henning talking to the same two people before the meeting and they questioned why Hillsdale residents were there. He didn't know, they were probably here to listen. They didn't say anything or do anything to disrupt the meeting; the Mayor of Westwood told Arnowitz that he had to remove the residents from the meeting, they weren't invited. He told the Mayor that if they don't his residents, he won't remain either and that is the reason he left the meeting. Our residents come first, Westwood comes second, River Vale comes second, Washington Township comes second. These people had a right to be at that meeting and it was a public meeting. The press, State people, taking minutes, record the meeting, that is a public session.

He said there is also a Scout Service in Veterans Park on Sunday 911 Candlelight Ceremony at 7:30PM.

We have to make a decision if we will have a Holiday Party for our staff. He would like to give Patty some advance notice.

He said the phone number for FEMA is 800-621-3362 or you can go on line at [www.disasterassistance.gov](http://www.disasterassistance.gov).

He was in the center of town on Friday night and the barrels in front of Starbucks were overflowing. He wants to change the Table and Chair Ordinance, Outdoor Ordinance, for 2012. He wants it to reflect that they have an obligation to empty the garbage. It should not be the responsibility of the taxpayers of Hillsdale. We pay DPW a minimum of two hours to empty garbage pails that merchants are deriving profit from.

Councilmember DeJoseph said perhaps a separate garbage can for the entity.

Mayor Arnowitz does not want garbage overflowing on the street and looks unsightly.

CLOSED SESSION

A 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 DeJoseph, seconded by Councilmember Schiavone, and unanimously carried.

ADJOURNMENT

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

9-6-11

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Robert P. Sandt, RMC  
Borough Clerk

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

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Robert P. Sandt, RMC  
Borough Clerk