



THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL'S 1992 BUDGET MESSAGE

The preparation of this year's budget has been a particularly difficult job for the Mayor and Council. In addition to the uncertainties of today's economy, the governing body has faced a number of problems in the areas of revenues, labor contracts, and changes in municipal services. For example, the Bergen County Utilities Authority has increased local sewer charges by 15% (\$96,000) and an arbitrator has awarded an increase in police salaries amounting to approximately \$85,000. The result is a budget that has required strong measures on a number of fronts and some major changes in services.

The good news is that the changes that have been made will stand us in extremely good stead in the future. The changes will be permanent and will mean significant savings to the Borough not only this year, but in the years to come.

Here are a few examples:

We have recently contracted for the private pickup of our garbage and recyclables. This change will save at least \$220,000 a year, every year, with no change in the level of service to residents. That's nearly four points off the tax rate! This was a difficult decision to make because it required the elimination of a number of jobs in our DPW. However, the new contract requires the successful bidder to offer similar jobs to all the people we'll be laying off.

We continue to meet with the Tri-Boro Radio organization to investigate the possibility of blending Hillsdale's dispatching into their operation. Such a combination would save Hillsdale between \$200,000 and \$250,000 each and every year.

The completion of the largest portion of the road program has enabled the Borough to operate its Road Department with one less employee; contracting out the majority of grass-cutting has allowed us to do with one less employee in the Parks Department; and with fewer vehicles in use we are able to function with one less mechanic.

Also, Hillsdale will join the Bergen Municipal

Employee Benefits Fund to cover health benefits. This major change will avoid a 58% increase in hospitalization costs that was to be imposed by Blue Cross.

In sum, we have tightened the belt on all Borough operations, worked to eliminate overtime, imposed strict budget discipline on all departments, and have made carefully considered changes to bring expenses to an absolute minimum. The result is a tight-fisted program that cuts the municipal operating budget by \$308,992 from last year's level.

However, that cut is offset by a required increase in our mandated reserve for uncollected taxes; that reserve will rise from \$467,804 in 1991 to \$516,992 for 1992. The reason: the Borough's tax delinquencies were up by nearly 30% last year; consequently, this increased reserve is required to provide for that happening again this year. Because this increase is coupled with a decline in our revenues —

(Continued on page 2)

IMPORTANT ELECTION NOTICE

Have you changed residence? Changed your name? Moved within Hillsdale? Failed to vote in four (4) years?

If the answer is "yes" to any of these questions, then you must register to be eligible to vote in future elections.

1. Voting Dates:	2. Last Day To Register:
Primary Election-June 2	May 4
General Election-Nov. 3	October 5

If you will be 18 years old on or before one of the above voting dates (See 1 above) you must register to vote on or before the last day of registration (See 2 above).

If you are disabled, ill or handicapped and cannot come to the Municipal Building to register, call Elizabeth Rotar, Borough Clerk, at 666-4800 and arrangements to come to your home or hospital will be made for you. Applications for absentee ballots will be provided upon registration.

1992 BUDGET MESSAGE (Continued from page 1)

(for example—last year we realized \$216,000 in interest; this year we anticipate only \$140,000), our tax rate will go up in 1992.

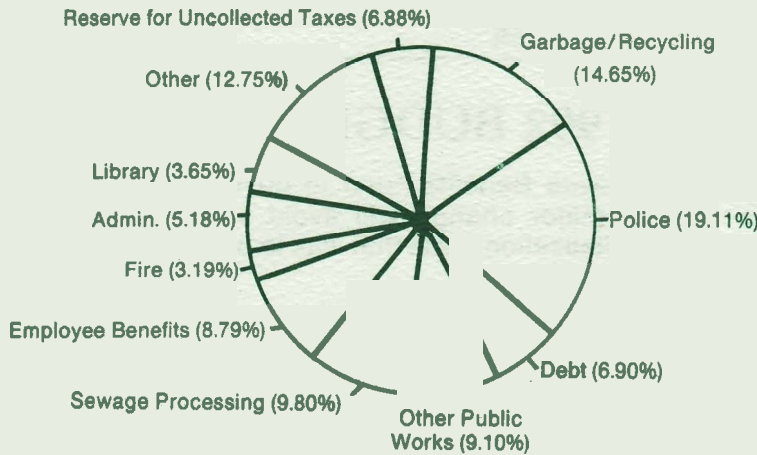
The amount to be raised from taxes will increase from \$3,703,546 in 1991 to \$4,236,199 in 1992; an increase of 14.38%, or 8.5 cents on the tax rate, raising the rate from \$.593 to \$.678. The effect of that

rate on a Hillsdale homeowner will be to raise the taxes on a \$200,000 home by \$170.

The Mayor and Council have worked long and hard to present a down-to-earth budget in a very difficult economic climate; however, we are confident that the steps we have taken this year will benefit the Borough for years and years to come.

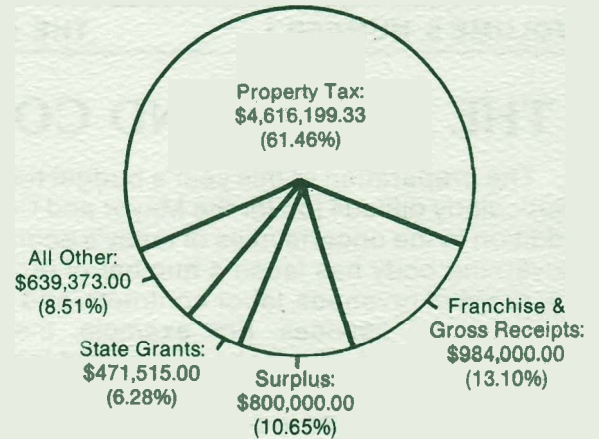
EXPENSE ALLOCATION

Total: \$7,511,087.72



REVENUES

Total: \$7,511,087.72



Hillsdale History: The Shade and Awning Factory

Hillsdale's several small industries in the early years of the century have left behind only one structure, a neat clapboarded building of many windows. Turning off Washington Avenue onto Crosley Terrace, it is on the right. It is included in the County survey of our town's historic structures as representative of the local manufacturing that were established in outlying areas. When it was built, there was no Crosley Terrace but instead a large open field; beyond, out Washington Avenue, were widely spaced houses, because the road is one of our oldest. Just as Hillsdale was becoming a Borough, a family of 9 moved up from Jersey City and, as a family enterprise in which all participated, with a few hired hands, established a shade and awning factory, for which they had the building built. For roughly 75 years around the turn of the century the fashionable house had window and porch awnings as did the main-street store, fending off the heat and fading effect of the sun. The aproned shopkeeper or his delivery boy cranking

the awnings down or back up was part of the street scene. Air-conditioning, solar film, venetian blinds and double-glazing have superseded the functional awnings.

I continue to become aware too late of the passing of some of our eldest townspeople, lifelong or multi-decade residents, some born abroad, who shared the adversities and diversities of the new-country experience. If any of you have tales to tell, as many must, please let me know. Hillsdale's history is the shared history of its people.

—J.S. Nants, Jr., Borough Historian



Thanks For Your Help

The Hillsdale Municipal Alliance Committee (formerly the School and Community Task Force) would like to thank all citizens who contributed to the Christmas Holiday Food Drive.

Special thanks go to Kings, Shop Rite, Sizzlers Restaurant, Friendly Ice Cream, the Hillsdale Post Office and local Girl Scouts for the extra effort made on behalf of needy local families. We're sure these families found the holiday season a lot more bearable because of the heartfelt generosity of local residents.

The Municipal Alliance Committee is already working on its next project for 1992. It will be announced in the next newsletter with our plans for activities that will include the whole family. *Watch for it!*

STONYBROOK: The Best Swim Club in the County

After last year's banner year for the **Stonybrook Swim Club** and a survey of other municipal recreation facilities in the county, the Hillsdale Swimming Pool Commission has reached the conclusion that Stonybrook is not only Hillsdale's finest summer attraction but its modern facilities and active membership have made it the best facility of its kind in Bergen County.

Those are high marks for a town of only 10,000 people, and it should be good news for both old and new residents to know they have a gem of a local recreational facility just around the corner. This year the season opens Saturday, May 23, the beginning of the Memorial Day weekend.

What STONYBROOK has to offer:

- ★ 12 Acre Family Recreation Center
- ★ Snack Bar—Picnic Grove ★ Olympic Size Pool
- ★ Diving Pool ★ Intermediate Pool ★ Playground
- ★ Kiddie Pool ★ Swimming & Diving Instructions
- ★ Family Picnics ★ Splash Parties
- ★ Swimming Team ★ Diving Team
- ★ Teen Dances ★ Organized Games & Activities

Highlights of the 1992 season will include:

- ★ **The Clubhouse** with changing areas, hot showers and bathrooms.
- ★ **"JR's Snack Bar at Stonybrook"** returns.
- ★ **Additional new landscaping** will include 100 flowering and shade trees and 250 flowering shrubs to provide shade and color during the swim season. The trees have been planted around the pool perimeter, in the parking areas and outside the pool fence. **Phase 2**, now underway, includes 290 more shrubs

within the parking lot islands and near the new administration building.

- ★ **The pool filtration system** is undergoing a complete overhaul that will ensure continued sparkling clean water.
- ★ **For your children**, regularly scheduled and reasonably priced swimming instruction.
- ★ **Our famous Swim Team** couldn't wait for the ice to thaw and the water to warm. (*Join early.*)
- ★ **This year we plan to offer more games and organized activities** for the children (*and maybe even the adults!*).
- ★ **1991's Splash Party** was the event of the season! And this year we promise a repeat performance.

Strongly Recommended:

Join Stonybrook Early!

Sold out in 1991, this year we anticipate an even greater demand for memberships. To insure that members are guaranteed maximum enjoyment of **Stonybrook**, the Hillsdale Swimming Pool Commission must impose a limit on memberships. Continuing memberships (renewals) and new Hillsdale-resident members will receive top priority.

Enclosed with this newsletter is an insert containing a coupon that can be used to make your membership reservation for the coming summer season. It may also be used to request additional information regarding the club's activities.

BOARD OF HEALTH ACTIVITIES

Mark Cohen, president of the Hillsdale Board of Health, has announced the hiring of Lois Kohan as the Board's Public Health Nurse for 1992.

Mrs. Kohan will oversee the Hillsdale Child Health Conference held monthly. The Conference is open to families meeting certain economic guidelines and includes free immunizations, physical examinations, and testing and health education for "well" babies. Children who are ill should be taken to their own pediatrician or to a hospital clinic. Call Mrs. Kohan Tuesday through Thursday at 358-5028.

Mrs. Kohan will also provide adult health care services including free blood pressure and health-risk counseling and education every second and fourth Tuesday of the month from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., and from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the health station on the lower level of Borough Hall. No appointment is necessary.

Free Well Water Tests

Northwest Bergen Regional Health Commission continues to provide free well water tests for bacteria for Hillsdale residents whose main source of drinking water is their own private well. Pick-ups are every Monday morning. Call 445-7217 for appointments for pick-ups.

How Old Is Your Microwave?

During the month of April, Northwest Regional Health Commission will conduct free microwave oven tests for residents whose microwave units are over five years old and/or whose ovens have received heavy use. Call 445-7217 for an appointment.

The Board of Health also strongly recommends blood pressure checks for everyone 18 years or older. The Board also recommends a change in your lifestyle to include more exercise, a dietary intake that will include more lean meat such as broiled chicken, and the inclusion of vegetables and whole unprocessed grains to help reduce cholesterol and fat.

Poison Prevention Month

March is Poison Prevention Month. Sound advice recommends keeping all cleaning solvents, chemicals, paints and medicine in locked tamper-proof cabinets away from children. Also, the New Jersey Information and Education System now operates a 24-hour toll-free hotline (800 962-1253) for emergencies and poison information. A free telephone sticker with this important telephone number may be picked up at Borough Hall, or send a stamped self-addressed envelope with your request for a "Poison Information Phone Sticker" to the Board of Health, Borough Hall, Hillsdale, N.J. 07642.

Code Compliance: A Continuing Requirement for Safety

1991 was the first year that Certificates of Continuing Occupancy issued by the Code Compliance Office were required in the event of the sale or a change of tenant in a home or business within the Borough of Hillsdale. (This requirement is considered essential to the safety of new occupants moving to new quarters.)

To qualify for the Certificate, an inspection of the premises must be made at least 30 days prior to occupancy by the new tenant or homeowner. These mandatory inspections have been most helpful in educating the public in the necessity for installing smoke detectors on each level of the home or business. Smoke detectors, which are strongly recommended for every building, have become mandatory in the event of a change of the ownership or tenancy in Hillsdale, and compliance is strictly applied. The inspections also include checking for improper maintenance of the surrounding property, such as damaged sidewalks, overgrown brush, etc.; safety hazards from faulty electrical wiring; and gas leaks resulting from moving or aging pipes and pipe connections. In the latter case, the inspections have shown a flue integrity problem with chimneys, most prevalent in the Tandy and Allen developments. Consequently, all homeowners are asked to take the time necessary to inspect their water heater flue and furnace flue for any cracks or disconnected pipes. There should be a tight seal around the flue so

Timely Tips and News From The Environmental Commission

Tip # 1 — If your decorative hemlock trees have begun to take on a whitish cast without it having snowed—**BEWARE!** It's possible that the *Woolly Adelgid* has struck. This tiny sap-sucking insect will eventually kill your tree. You can prevent this from happening by spray-soaking the plants with a solution of Dormant Oil which is available at your favorite hardware or garden center. In following the directions on the container, caution must be exercised. Do not apply when temperatures threaten to dip below 40 degrees Fahrenheit. However, Dormant Oil is a highly distilled petroleum product which is both a biodegradable and non-toxic agent for plants when used properly.

Tip # 2 — Winter ice and snow not only bring peril to people, but they also bring peril to plants in the form of **salt**. To use salt sparingly is not only sound advice for people but also for plants. We suggest the use of sawdust, wood chips or bird seed, instead of salt, to give you proper foothold during the winter weather.

that colorless, odorless gases cannot escape into the living quarters of the house.

There are several products that can be used to seal the flue pipes, such as a high-temperature silicon caulk, or a high-temperature furnace cement.

If you question the integrity of your flue connections, please call the Code Compliance Office to make an appointment for an inspection—358-5016. Also, take a few minutes to check the batteries in your smoke alarms. Be sure they're still working.

Help Wanted For The Office of Emergency Management

What is the Office of Emergency Management?

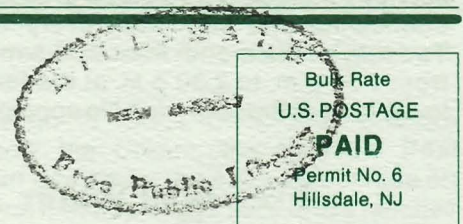
The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) replaces yesterday's Office of Civil Defense. It was created to prepare local communities with volunteer personnel and an established plan to provide the resources necessary in the event of a large scale civil or natural disaster, and to maintain the safety of the citizens involved.

Are any special skills required in order to help in these emergencies?

The answer to that question is "Yes" and "No". Obviously, certain skills (enumerated below) would be extremely helpful. But the principle ingredients are the interest and willingness of local residents to contribute time and energy to help their fellow citizens in the event of a major disaster.

Obviously, experience in the following areas would be especially useful: *medical and/or radiological experience, communications background, computer training, or a familiarity with procedures for public safety.*

But, for those who are interested and do not feel they have any particular area of expertise, certified instructors provided by the State Division of OEM will provide courses and materials that will train every resident willing to help in activities that are essential to the welfare of the public. This training, with all materials required, will be done locally, right here in Hillsdale. Residents interested in helping their community in a time of a major emergency or disaster should send a letter expressing that interest to: OEM Coordinator, George E. Lucia; 380 Hillsdale Ave.; Hillsdale, N.J. 07642. Or, for more information call 358-5016.



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