



**TOWN OF HILLSDALE
TOWN BOARD MEETING
August 25, 2026**

Minutes

NOTE: After a public hearing on April 25, 2024, and at a Special Town Board Meeting the Town Board approved a resolution to allow "Extraordinary Circumstances Videoconferencing", "ECV". This allows a Town Board member who has a qualifying disability to attend, be part of a quorum and vote at all Town Board Meetings.

The Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Hillsdale, Columbia County in the State of New York was held at the Town Hall, 2609 State Route 23, Hillsdale, NY 12529 on August 25, 2026, at 7:00 pm.

Board members present:

PRESENT:	Supervisor	Mike Dvorchak
	Councilmember	Nico Hernandez
	Councilmember	Bart Ziegler
PRESENT VIA ZOOM:	Councilmember	Irwin Feld
	Councilmember	Jamie Carano Nordenstrom

ALSO PRESENT:	Robina Ward	Town Clerk
	Emily Stalker	Deputy Town Clerk
	Steve Tiger	Deputy Supervisor
	Richard Briggs	Highway Superintendent

OTHERS PRESENT: Members of the public.

TRADITIONAL VIDEOCONFERENCING NOTICE:

Notice of said meeting was posted on the Town Website. The public is invited to participate at the town hall or the videoconference meeting location at 2609 State Route 23, Hillsdale, NY 12529.

Supervisor Dvorchak called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Supervisor Dvorchak asked the Town Clerk for a roll call.

Town Clerk Ward conducted the roll call as follows:

Councilmember Hernandez – here

Councilmember Ziegler – here

Supervisor Dvorchak – here

Councilmember Carano Nordenstrom – here, (via Zoom)

Councilmember Feld – here, (via Zoom)

Public Comment: One person spoke referencing the Highway Department and storm report.

Correspondence

Levin, K 8/4/26 – Connect Across the Lines

Levin, K 6/26/26 – EMR Australia

Levin, K 8/17/26 – Death by Smart Meter

Levin, K 8/18/26 – Entrance to the RJ Park and Hernandez reply

Approval of Minutes

July 21, 2026, Town Board Minutes

On a motion of Councilmember Ziegler, seconded by Councilmember Hernandez.
Councilmember Carano Nordenström stated that she did not remember if the names were stated by the Highway Superintendent. Town Clerk Ward responded that he did and the video was available online.
Supervisor Dvorchak stated he would run it by the Town Attorney and copy the Board on the responses.
The motion was

APPROVED	Ayes 4	Dvorchak, Feld, Hernandez, Ziegler.
	Naye 1	Carano Nordenstrom

Resolved the Town Board approves July 21, 2026, Town Board minutes.

July 21, 2026, Public Hearing

On a motion of Councilmember Hernandez, seconded by Councilmember Ziegler.
The motion was

APPROVED	Ayes 5	Dvorchak, Feld, Hernandez, Ziegler, Carano Nordenstrom
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Resolved the Town Board approves July 21, 2026, Public Hearing minutes.

July 29, 2026, Special Town Board Minutes

On a motion of Councilmember Ziegler, seconded by Councilmember Hernandez.
The motion was

APPROVED	Ayes 4	Dvorchak, Feld, Hernandez, Ziegler.
	Abstain 1	Carano Nordenstrom

Resolved the Town Board approves July 29, 2026, Special Town Board Minutes.

Supervisor's Report

County Report

Supervisor Dvorchak reported that EMS operates on a regional basis, and is funded by the towns of Hillsdale, Copake Taghkanic and Ancram. It is Community Rescue, not Copake Rescue. There are now 4 regional units, it is not practical; some towns pay more, some pay less than their share, it is all based on population. The County is proposing to go to a full County model. This will be voted on in the September meeting so it can be budgeted for 2027. Supervisor Dvorchak stated he would be voting "yes" for this proposal. It looks like Hillsdale is paying their fair share. Highway Superintendent Briggs asked if the Community Rescue would still keep their identities. Supervisor Dvorchak stated they would keep their separate identities, but it would be funded from one pot, distributed to the towns.

Town Finances

Supervisor Dvorchak reported that the town had received a check for sales tax and tobacco settlement which puts us back in compliance with the fund balance policy.

July Abstracts

General	14,819.86
Highway	73,264.08
Sewer	3,541.30
Park	7,597.00
Capital	4,557.85

Budget Amendment

There is no amendment this month.

Town Clerk Report

Town Clerk Ward reported that the Deputy Town Clerk has been scanning records. We are planning to review the Vault at the substation and order shelving and boxes to become more organized and to continue with scanning records. We are planning to order archive books for the vital records.

The Dog License donations will be collected when we issue dog licenses and will then be given to the Supervisor on a monthly basis and it is yet to be determined on what schedule we will be giving the donations to Columbia Greene. Possibly quarterly.

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Gretchen and Town Clerk Ward worked on the Salt Shed grant application submitted on July 30, 2026. Town Clerk Ward stated that Councilmember Carano Nordenstrom had an issue with the minutes from the June meeting and was going to provide screenshots which she never received. Town Clerk Ward asked Councilmember Carano Nordenstrom if she had sent them. Councilmember Carano Nordenstrom stated she had not responded but would respond in the coming week.

Resolution 87-2026 to pass RS 2417-A as per the Office of the New York State Comptroller and the New York State and Local Retirement System.

On a motion of Councilmember Hernandez, seconded by Councilmember Ziegler.

The motion was

APPROVED Ayes 5 Dvorchak, Feld, Hernandez, Ziegler, Carano Nordenstrom.

Resolved the Town Board approves RS 2417-A as per the Office of the New York State Comptroller and the New York State and Local Retirement System.

Highway Superintendent's Report

Highway Superintendent Briggs submitted his monthly report and Storm Damage report.

Highway Superintendent Briggs reported the people in Harlemville got the most damage, between 10 and 11 inches of rain in 10 hours. He stated that he was two employees shorthanded, that he did have to close roads. He stated that everything is changing, he is working diligently to stay within budget and to keep roads open. The Town of Hillsdale suffered significant damage and is proud to say that his work over the past 20 years chip sealing roads has saved this town so much money.

He stated that he did a damage estimate for the County for emergency management with only materials of \$125,000. Back when we went through Sandy and Irene, we were at \$1,200,000 in damage to road surfaces alone. Harlemville Road, Harder Road and Wolf Hill were all under water by feet and he is very proud to say that the compliments and thank you's from the taxpayers and the money that was saved is a major accomplishment. Texas Hill Road had no road surface damage; the only reason we lost anything on the shoulders was because the power company had gone up into the woods and diverted the water so it missed the culvert pipe and washed down and the gabion rock cured that problem. Highway Superintendent Briggs has photos on his phone. There will be no assistance from the State or the Federal Government.

Highway Superintendent Briggs stated that he did not want to fall too far behind with the Budget Amendment.

Salt Shed Grant

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that Gretchen Stevens and Robina Ward had completed the grant application.

Culvert Pipes

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that the Huson River Estuary Program required DOT design standards. It is not cost effective for us as a small town.

Highway Superintendent Briggs stated that he had \$120,000 in the current budget for the Mitchell Street culvert just north of 23, Mitchel Street South. He will get an updated estimate.

General discussion on culverts.

Sewer

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that the DEC is coming on September 3rd.

He stated that he had sent a soil sample to Cornell, it takes 8 weeks for the results. We have ordered new pumps as they are failing.

General discussion.

West End Bridge Update
Preliminary Design Meeting

GPI Presentation for Town Board and Public – November meeting.

Resolution 88-2026 to hold a Public Meeting for Local Law 2-2026 Establishing Income Levels for Senior Citizens Real Property Tax Exemption on Tuesday, September 15th at 6:45 PM.

On a motion of Councilmember Hernandez, seconded by Councilmember Ziegler.

General discussion.

The motion was

APPROVED Ayes 5 Dvorchak, Feld, Hernandez, Ziegler, Carano Nordenstrom.

Resolved the Town Board approves to hold a Public Meeting for Local Law 2-2026 Establishing Income Levels for Senior Citizens Real Property Tax Exemption on Tuesday, September 15th at 6:45 PM.

Resolution 89-2026 to hold a Public Meeting for Local Law 3-2026 Establishing Income Levels for Disabled and Low-Income Real Property Tax Exemption on Tuesday, September 15th at 6:55 PM

On a motion of Councilmember Ziegler, seconded by Councilmember Hernandez.

The motion was

APPROVED Ayes 5 Dvorchak, Feld, Hernandez, Ziegler, Carano Nordenstrom.

Resolved the Town Board approves to hold a Public Meeting for Local Law 3-2026 Establishing Income Levels for Disabled and Low-Income Real Property Tax Exemption on Tuesday, September 15th at 6:55 PM.

Hamlet Park

Resolution 90 -2026 to accept bid from Mancon, LLC for \$163,616.25 for the construction of the Bandshell.

Mancon, LLC, Meyer Construction

CPL Recommendation of Award

On a motion of Supervisor Dvorchak, seconded by Councilmember Hernandez.

General discussion.

The motion was

APPROVED Ayes 5 Dvorchak, Feld, Hernandez, Ziegler, Carano Nordenstrom.

Resolved the Town Board approves to accept bid from Mancon LLC for \$163,616.25 for the construction of the Bandshell.

Resolution 91-2026 to approve requesting Rheinstrom Foundation to reallocate \$12,000 awarded for the Transportation Program to the construction of the Bandshell.

On a motion of Councilmember Hernandez , seconded by Councilmember Ziegler.

The motion was

APPROVED Ayes 4 Dvorchak, Feld, Hernandez, Ziegler.

Abstain/ Naye 1 Carano Nordenstrom

Resolved the Town Board approves requesting Rheinstrom Foundation to reallocate \$12,000 awarded for the Transportation Program to the construction of the Bandshell

Historic Committee

Resolution 92-2026 Authorizing the Revolutionary War Veteran Headstone Cleaning and Signage Project in Commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolutionary War

On a motion of Councilmember Hernandez , seconded by Councilmember Ziegler.

General discussion.

The motion was

APPROVED Ayes 5 Dvorchak, Feld, Hernandez, Ziegler, Carano Nordenstrom.

Resolved the Town Board approves the Revolutionary War Veteran Headstone Cleaning and Signage Project in Commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolutionary War.

CSC CEC Task Force/CAC

No report.

Comprehensive Plan Update

Supervisor Dvorchak stated he had received the contract and is under review by the Town attorney. Preliminary Comprehensive Plan Committee to meet in Fall.

Resolution 93-2026 to reappoint Mary King to the Columbia County Environmental Management Council

On a motion of Councilmember Hernandez, seconded by Councilmember Feld.

The motion was

APPROVED Ayes 5 Dvorchak, Feld, Hernandez, Ziegler, Carano Nordenstrom.

Resolved the Town Board approves to reappoint Mary King to the Columbia County Environmental Management Council.

Resolution 94-2026 to appoint Kevin Hinds as an alternate to the Planning Board.

On a motion of Councilmember Ziegler, seconded by Councilmember Hernandez.

General discussion on the creation of the Planning Board and alternates.

On a motion of Councilmember Ziegler, seconded by Councilmember Hernandez.

The motion was

APPROVED Ayes 4 Dvorchak, Feld, Hernandez, Ziegler.

Abstain/Naye 1 Carano Nordenstrom

Resolved the Town Board approves to appoint Kevin Hinds as an alternate to the Planning Board.

Roe Jan Park

Councilmember Hernandez reported that the replacement roof on the farmhouse was completed and the rotted plywood replaced.

A new waterline was installed in the community garden.

Fixed the entrance to the park so there are no potholes.

Any other business that may come before the Town

Councilmember Carano Nordenstrom suggested that the board should address the policy about updating Ecode. Supervisor Dvorchak asked Town Clerk Ward if she would present the policy at the next board meeting.

Adjournment

On a motion of Councilmember Hernandez , seconded by Councilmember Ziegler.

The motion was approved by all members of the board at 8:39 pm.

Robina Ward, Town Clerk