



**TOWN OF HILLSDALE
TOWN BOARD MEETING
September 15, 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 September 15, 2026, at 7:00 pm.

Board members present:

PRESENT:	Supervisor	Mike Dvorchak
	Councilmember	Nico Hernandez
	Councilmember	Bart Ziegler
ABSENT:	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.

Public Comment: Four people spoke referencing the Roe Jan Spa proposal.

Approval of Minutes

Aug 25, 2026, Town Board Minutes

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

The motion was

APPROVED Ayes 3 Dvorchak, Hernandez, Ziegler.

Resolved the Town Board approves August 25, 2026, Town Board minutes.

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that he had spoken to the Town Attorney in reference to the minutes, who confirmed that if something was said in the meeting, as long as it is factual can be part of the meeting minutes.

Town Clerk Ward responded that that was correct and that she is going to amend July 21, 2026, minutes in the section of the Highway where Highway Superintendent Briggs responded to Amy Davidsens letter and in the next paragraph it actually summaries what Highway Superintendent Briggs stated. She wants to make it really clear, that's what he stated by adding the words "Highway Superintendent Briggs also stated".

Review / Updating of the Employee Handbook

Supervisor Dvorchak stated it has been about 5 years since the last review. There are some new regulations, policies, as well as updates to make things clearer. Supervisor Dvorchak and the Deputy Supervisor Tiger with the Town Board should review the entire handbook. They are going to use the same Company to update, they quoted \$500.00, but if there are more things to change the cost might go higher.

Resolution 95-2026 to approve the fee up to \$850.00 for revision of the Employee Handbook.

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

APPROVED Ayes 3 Dvorchak, Hernandez, Ziegler.

Resolved the Town Board approves approving the fee up to \$850.00 for revision of the Employee Handbook.

Supervisor's Report

County Report

Supervisor Dvorchak reported that the Sheriff met with the Supervisors in reference to the use of Flock cameras that reads license plates, the Sheriff also brought a representative from Flock, although the meeting was originally in Executive session the Board of Supervisors decided that because the discussion included contractual information that it should be made public. There were public comments. There is a person in Hudson that has a private Flock camera. The Sheriff has started a data base, where you have to input an active case to get access. Senator Hinchy has a bill, in committee, that will standardize the usage of any data state wide. Hillsdale does not have any Flock cameras. General discussion.

Town Finances

Supervisor Dvorchak reported that we are over on the Youth Program line but are getting reimbursed for bus usage. We are currently below our fund policy, we have Mortgage tax and two quarters of Sales Tax to come in. In the Highway the CHIPS money has not been reimbursed yet.

August Abstracts

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

Budget Amendment 10-2026

The budget amendment is for the Safety Inspector account line, the Granicus invoice was included in this line but not budgeted for.

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

The motion was

APPROVED Ayes 3 Dvorchak, Hernandez, Ziegler.

Town Board approves the 10-2026 Budget Amendment.

Town Clerk Report

Town Clerk Ward reported that the amendment for the minutes had been discussed. The shredding bins are here and open until September 25.

Another thing to clean up, Councilmember Carano Nordenstrom stated that she had screen shots of the June minutes which she was going to send us after the July meeting, she did not send them, and she also mentioned in the August 25 meeting that she would send them, we have not received them.

We have a Town Clerk "Virtual Town Clerk" on the website, we need to finish setting it up, you can write in whatever you are looking for and it will find it.

There was a question at the last meeting about Ecode. Tom Carty introduced Ecode in February of 2019. Tom and I worked on it for two years. There are 4 print copies in the building, produced in November 2021. There was a public hearing in February 2022, a resolution was passed and local law 1-2022 adopting the code. The policy or routine is that once a local law is approved by the state it is uploaded to Ecode, we send it to them and they post. The Town Board minutes include any discussion on local laws and there are books downstairs that have copies of the laws and are available to the public, resolutions the same, the general Code books are updated twice a year.

One of the reasons to go to Ecode was that prior administrations were missing documents, and we are still missing documents. The Town Board, Planning Board and Zoning Board minutes are uploaded to the website, we do that, Emily and I, for Ecode they are updated once a month by Ramona. We are still scanning and cleaning up records.

Highway Superintendent's Report

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

Highway Superintendent Briggs reported that he had finished chip sealing for the year, he is taking off Lockwood Road from the list because the price of oil has increased a dollar a gallon from when he got the estimates in January. The 284 needs to be amended. Highway Superintendent Briggs sent an email this morning stating that the salt contract bid for 2026-2027 increased by \$26.00 a ton, the town uses 1400 tons, an increase of \$90,000.00 which is not in the budget. The Highway Department is over two times the cost of fuel than he budgeted for in the 2026 budget numbers. He had budgeted \$2.50 per gallon and its now over \$6.00 per gallon. The budget amendment increases do not take into consideration any of the increased material costs.

Sewer

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that the DEC visited on September 3rd.

Sewer Operator Les Coon took a water test which looked fine. There were problems with the panel, a thermostat was not working properly, it has been fixed. The DEC will be introducing new standards; the Sewer Operator will be taking new samples.

West End Bridge Update

Preliminary Design Meeting

GPI Presentation for Town Board and Public – November meeting.

Resolution 96-2026 to approve **Local Law 2-2026** Establishing Income Levels for Senior Citizens Real Property Tax Exemption.

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

The motion was

APPROVED Ayes 3 Dvorchak, Hernandez, Ziegler.

Resolved the Town Board approves Local Law 2-2026 Establishing Income Levels for Senior Citizens Real Property Tax Exemption.

Resolution 97-2026 to approve **Local Law 3-2026** Establishing Income Levels for Disabled and Low-Income Real Property Tax Exemption.

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

The motion was

APPROVED Ayes 3 Dvorchak, Hernandez, Ziegler.

Resolved the Town Board approves Local Law 3-2026 Establishing Income Levels for Disabled and Low-Income Real Property Tax Exemption.

Resolution 98-2026 to hold a Public Hearing for the Preliminary 2027 Hillsdale Town Budget on Tuesday, October 20, 2026, at 6:00pm.

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

The motion was

APPROVED Ayes 3 Dvorchak, Hernandez, Ziegler.

Resolved the Town Board approves to hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, October 20, 2026, at 6:00pm.

Resolution 99-2026 to hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, October 20, 2026, at 6:50pm, for proposed Local Law 4-2026: A local law to authorize alternate members of the Zoning Board of Appeals.

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

General discussion.

The motion was

APPROVED Ayes 3 Dvorchak, Hernandez, Ziegler.

Resolved the Town Board approves to hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, October 20, 2026, at 6:50pm, for proposed Local Law 4-2026: A local law to authorize alternate members of the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Resolution 100-2026 to hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, October 20, 2026, at 6:55pm, for proposed Local Law 5-2026: A local law to authorize alternate members of the Planning Board.

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

The motion was

APPROVED Ayes 3 Dvorchak, Hernandez, Ziegler.

Resolved the Town Board approves to hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, October 20, 2026, at 6:55pm, for proposed Local Law 5-2026: A local law to authorize alternate members of the Planning Board.

Hamlet Park

Resolution 101 -2026 to use funds from HECDL for the purchase of shrubs to be planted along the western border of the Hamlet Park in the amount of \$3,175.00 from Northern Nurseries plus cost of mulch.

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

The motion was

APPROVED Ayes 3 Dvorchak, Hernandez, Ziegler.

Resolved the Town Board approves to use funds from HECDL for the purchase of shrubs to be planted along the western border of the Hamlet Park in the amount of \$3,175.00 from Northern Nurseries plus cost of mulch.

Resolution 102-2026 to establish the planting of the shrubs in the Hamlet Park in late September as an official town volunteer event as sponsored by the Hamlet Committee.

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

The motion was

APPROVED Ayes 3 Dvorchak, Hernandez, Ziegler.

Resolved the Town Board approves to establish the planting of the shrubs in the Hamlet Park in late September as an official town volunteer event as sponsored by the Hamlet Committee.

Historic Committee

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that the committee had purchased the cleaning supplies, they are working on a date about mid-October and are looking for volunteers.

General discussion on cemeteries.

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 on October 5, 2026 at 6:00pm.

Resolution 103-2026 to approve the signing of the contract with New York State for the creation of a Comprehensive Plan pending Town of Hillsdale Attorney review and approval.

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

The motion was

APPROVED Ayes 3 Dvorchak, Hernandez, Ziegler.

Resolved the Town Board approves the signing of the contract with New York State for the creation of a Comprehensive Plan pending Town of Hillsdale Attorney review and approval.

Roe Jan Park

Councilmember Hernandez reported that he had a meeting with PK Construction, they walked through the whole house, the idea being we wanted to know what the total cost would be to repair everything. There are some structural things, some rotting in the siding. Half the building was renovated before and half was not. Lead paint that would have to be removed professionally and sent over an estimate. There are no bathrooms, there was a site that was an office with a bathroom with a septic and its own water source.

Any other business that may come before the Town

Adjournment

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

The motion was approved by all members of the board at 7:55 pm.

Robina Ward, Town Clerk