TOWN OF HILLSDALE
TOWN BOARD MEETING
October 20, 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 October 20, 2026, at 7:00pm.
Board members present:

PRESENT:	Supervisor	Mike Dvorchak
	Councilmember	Irwin Feld
	Councilmember	Nico Hernandez
	Councilmember	Bart Ziegler
ABSENT:	Councilmember	Jamie Carano Nordenstrom
ALSO PRESENT:	Robina Ward	Town Clerk
	Emily Stalker	Deputy Town Clerk
	Steve Tiger	Deputy Supervisor
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 7:00pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment: One comment on the Town Website and minutes.

Approval of Minutes
September 15, 2026, Town Board Minutes.
September 15, 2026, Public Hearing Law 2-2026
September 15, 2026, Public Hearing Law 3-2026
On a motion of Councilmember Feld, seconded by Councilmember Hernandez.
The motion was
APPROVED Ayes 4 Dvorchak, Feld, Hernandez, Ziegler.
Resolved the Town Board approves September 15, 2026, Town Board minutes, Public Hearing Law 2-2026, Public Hearing Law 3-2026 minutes.

October 5, 2026, Special Town Board Meeting Minutes
On a motion of Councilmember Feld, seconded by Councilmember Ziegler.
The motion was
APPROVED Ayes 4 Dvorchak, Feld, Hernandez, Ziegler.

Resolved the Town Board approves October 5, 2026, Special Town Board minutes.

West End Bridge Update
GPI Presentation for Town Board and Public – November meeting
1.5 million Funding Shortfall.

Supervisor's Report
County Report
Supervisor Dvorchak stated that the County is working on the budget. The County is facing the same financial challenges that we are.
September Financials
Supervisor Dvorchak stated that our reserve funds are below our policy, caused by the July storms, the cost of diesel fuel and the West End Bridge. We will start to get reimbursed for the West End Bridge expenses.

General	21,735.59
Highway	396,592.90
Park	788.03
Sewer	4,218.16
West End	16,205.41

Budget Amendment 10A-2026
Supervisor Dvorchak stated that we are breaking out the payroll service from the accounting fees.
We are increasing the allocation to Buildings as the heating season has begun. Sidewalks lighting is increased because of the increase in NYSEG billing.
On a motion of Councilmember Feld, seconded by Councilmember Hernandez .
General discussion.
The motion was
APPROVED Ayes 4 Dvorchak, Feld, Hernandez, Ziegler.
Resolved the Town Board approves budget Amendment 10A-2026

Town Clerk Report
Town Clerk Ward reported that 4 vital record books were picked up today, they will be scanned, digitized and rebound in waterproof and fireproof bindings. They will be kept in the vault at the Sheriff's Substation.
We received two quotes for replacing the oil burner at the Town Hall with a gas boiler we will discuss at the November meeting. Town Clerk Ward stated that Councilperson Carano Nordenstrom had said that she was sending screen shots of the July meeting minutes, Town Clerk Ward has not received them 4 months later. We are continuing to digitize and scan old records from the vault.

Highway Superintendent's Report
Supervisor Dvorchak stated we had received the Highway Superintendents monthly report.
The 284 Agreement for 2026 needs to be amended because of increased costs
Amendment to the 2026 284 Agreement
On a motion of Councilmember Hernandez, seconded by Councilmember Feld.
General discussion.
The motion was
APPROVED Ayes 4 Dvorchak, Feld, Hernandez, Ziegler.
Resolved the Town Board approves the Amendment to the 2026 284 Agreement

Local Law 4-2026: A Local Law to Authorize Alternate Members of the Zoning Board of Appeals.
Local Law 5-2026: A Local Law to Authorize Alternate Members of the Planning Board.
On a motion of Councilmember Feld, seconded by Councilmember Hernandez.

The motion was
APPROVED Ayes 4 Dvorchak, Feld, Hernandez, Ziegler.
Resolved the Town Board approves the Local Laws 4-2026 and 5-2026 to authorize alternate members of the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Planning Board.

Resolution 108-2026 to increase the EDU rate for 2027 for the Town of Hillsdale Sewer District #1.
On a motion of Councilmember Hernandez, seconded by Councilmember Ziegler.
General discussion.
The motion was
APPROVED Ayes 4 Dvorchak, Feld, Hernandez, Ziegler.
Resolved the Town Board approves to increase the EDU rate for 2027 for the Town of Hillsdale Sewer District #1 from $171:00 a quarter to $175.00.

Local Law 6-2026 to revise sewer rates in relation to Grease Traps on Local Law Regarding EDUs for Sewer District.
On a motion of Councilmember Feld, seconded by Councilmember Hernandez.
General discussion.
The motion was
APPROVED Ayes 4 Dvorchak, Feld, Hernandez, Ziegler.
Resolved the Town Board approves the Local Laws 6-2026 to revise sewer rates in relation to Grease Traps on Local Law Regarding EDUs for Sewer District, an increase of ½ an EDU.

Local Law 7-2026 a local law to override the tax levy limit for fiscal year 2027.
On a motion of Councilmember Feld, seconded by Supervisor Dvorchak.
General discussion.
The motion was
APPROVED Ayes 4 Dvorchak, Feld, Hernandez, Ziegler.
Resolved the Town Board approves a Local Law 7-2026 to override the tax levy limit for fiscal year 2027.

Resolution 109-2026 to reduce the number of Town Justices from two to one.
On a motion of Councilmember Hernandez, seconded by Councilmember Feld.
Supervisor Dvorchak stated that the revenue of the court has decreased significantly. Both judges are elected officials and will serve out their terms.
General discussion.
The motion was
APPROVED Ayes 4 Dvorchak, Feld, Hernandez, Ziegler.
Resolved the Town Board approves to reduce the number of Town Justices from two to one.

Resolution 110-2026 a resolution authorizing an increase in the electric vehicle charging rate at town-owned charging stations from $0.32 to $0.45 per kilowatt-hour.
On a motion of Councilmember Hernandez, seconded by Councilmember Ziegler.
General discussion.
The motion was
APPROVED Ayes 4 Dvorchak, Feld, Hernandez, Ziegler.
Resolved the Town Board approves authorizing an increase in the electric vehicle charging rate at town-owned charging stations from $0.32 to $0.45 per kilowatt-hour.

Resolution 111-2026 to approve motion to sign Youth Program Renewal Memorandum of Understanding.
On a motion of Councilmember Hernandez, seconded by Councilmember Ziegler.
General discussion.

APPROVED Ayes 4 Dvorchak, Feld, Hernandez, Ziegler.
Resolved the Town Board approves the motion to sign Youth Program Renewal Memorandum of Understanding.

Resolution 112-2026 to approve the Town Event Holiday Tree Lighting for December 5, 2026.
On a motion of Councilmember Feld, seconded by Supervisor Dvorchak.
General discussion.
The motion was
APPROVED Ayes 4 Dvorchak, Feld, Hernandez, Ziegler.
Resolved the Town Board approves the Town Event Holiday Tree Lighting for December 5, 2026.

Resolution 113-2026 to hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, November 4 at 12:25 PM and formally introduce Local Law 8-2026 to adopt tax exemption for Veterans with 100% disability rating.
On a motion of Councilmember Hernandez, seconded by Councilmember Feld.
General discussion.
The motion was
APPROVED Ayes 4 Dvorchak, Feld, Hernandez, Ziegler.
Resolved the Town Board to hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, November 4 at 12:25 PM for Local Law 8-2026 to adopt tax exemption for Veterans with 100% disability rating.

Hamlet Park Update
Councilmember Ziegler stated that the bandshell installation is going well.

Historic Committee Update
Councilmember Feld stated that they were waiting for the liability waiver to go through. Lauren and Councilmember Ziegler did a test on a gravestone on Pill Hill that showed an enormous improvement.

Resolution 114-2026 authorizing the purchase of electrical equipment for the Highway Department to satisfy the requirements of the $10,000 NYSERDA grant awarded to the Town of Hillsdale.
On a motion of Councilmember Hernandez, seconded by Councilmember Ziegler.
General discussion.
The motion was
APPROVED Ayes 4 Dvorchak, Feld, Hernandez, Ziegler.
Resolved the Town Board approves authorizing the purchase of electrical equipment for the Highway Department to satisfy the requirements of the $10,000 NYSERDA grant awarded to the Town of Hillsdale.

Resolution 115-2026 authorizing the use of a $100,000 NYSERDA grant for the installation of HVAC units in the Town-owned Sheriff's Substation and Highway Garage.
On a motion of Councilmember Feld, seconded by Councilmember Ziegler.
General discussion.
The motion was
APPROVED Ayes 4 Dvorchak, Feld, Hernandez, Ziegler.
Resolved the Town Board approves authorizing the use of a $100,000 NYSERDA grant for the installation of HVAC units in the Town-owned Sheriff's Substation and Highway Garage.

Comprehensive Plan Update
Preliminary Comprehensive Plan Committee Initial Meeting was held on October 5, 2026.
Councilmember and liaison Hernandez reported that the meeting was more of a meet and greet.
Meeting Schedule: First Monday of the Month at 6PM at Town Hall.

Roe Jan Park
Councilmember Hernandez stated that he had to sign some paperwork to get the needs assessment started, the cost will be approximately $2,000.00.

Resolution 116-2026 directing that the Town of Hillsdale be fully compensated for municipal services and resources provided to Roeliff Jansen Park and establishing a maintenance and administrative cost-recovery fee for such purpose.
On a motion of Councilmember Ziegler, seconded by Councilmember Hernandez.
General discussion.
The motion was
APPROVED Ayes 4 Dvorchak, Feld, Hernandez, Ziegler.
Resolved the Town Board approves that the Town of Hillsdale be fully compensated for municipal services and resources provided to Roeliff Jansen Park and establishing a maintenance and administrative cost-recovery fee for such purposes.

Budget Amendment 10 PARK-2026
Supervisor Dvorchak stated that the amendment was for taking $20,000.00 from the Roe Jan Park contingency line for the payment to the Town of Hillsdale.
On a motion of Councilmember Feld, seconded by Councilmember Hernandez .
General discussion.
The motion was
APPROVED Ayes 4 Dvorchak, Feld, Hernandez, Ziegler.
Resolved the Town Board approves budget Amendment 10 PARK-2026

Any other business that may come before the Town

Adjournment
On a motion of Councilmember Feld, seconded by Councilmember Ziegler.
The motion was approved by all members of the board present at 7:35pm.

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Robina Ward, Town Clerk