



**TOWN OF HILLSDALE  
GIFT COMMITTEE MEETING  
July 1, 2025  
Notes**

The meeting of the Gift Committee 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 July 1, 2025, at 12:00 pm.

Members present:

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Supervisor	Mike Dvorchak
	Highway Superintendent	Richard Briggs
	Town Clerk	Robina Ward

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Members of the public.

Notice of said meeting was posted on the Town Website. The public is invited to listen to the deliberations 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 12:00 pm.

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that this was a meeting of the subcommittee to discuss a gift possibility.

The name of the requester is the Taghkanic Creek Old Road Society, the date of the original request was June 16, 2025.

This is specifically to maintain Texas Hill Road as a loose gravel.

The length of the road is 2.1 miles, Highway Superintendent stated that there is a correction, the road is 1.99 miles. The proposed gift is of three equal payment is \$6,650.00 per year.

The length of the agreement is for a term of 3 years starting date to be TBD.

We have the proposal in front of us.

Supervisor Dvorchak asked, "if the number of residences result in significant traffic"?

Town Clerk Ward stated that there are 20 property owners on Texas Hill Road, there are 6 single family residences, 8 rural residences with acreage, 1 seasonal residence, 11 residential vacant land -no residences, 1 residential vacant land over 10 acres.

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that there was a significant amount of delivery services, garbage, landscapers, Highway Superintendent Briggs and Town Clerk Ward agreed.

Supervisor Dvorchak asked, "have the residents on the road agreed to the road remaining a loose gravel road"? Highway Superintendent Briggs said that there were several on the road that were not opposed to chip sealing the road. They do not want to be on record.

The next question "what is the evaluation of the wear and tear on the road by the public, aka, is this road well-travelled"? Highway Superintendent Briggs said that 30 years ago there were just 2 residences on the road. Everyone one has services now, yard services, pool service, exterminators.

Supervisor Dvorchak moved on to public safety.

“If maintained as a loose gravel road, does it present a decrease in public safety”?

Highway Superintendent Briggs said that reducing the dust makes for better safety. The first responders, the Fire Company were here, there is a decent amount of emergency calls between the Rescue Squad, the Sheriff’s Department and the Fire Company, and alarm activations, fire trucks and ambulances use the road.

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that it is a hill, and his major concern is public safety. Apple Tree Lane is not a throughfare and there are no residences on it which is why we were able to get passed this high threshold. Beyond this threshold he is personally not willing to discuss much of anything else.

Highway Superintendent Briggs said it’s comparing apples to oranges with the two roads. Most of the traffic is for the farm on Apple Tree Lane.

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that it is a very unique road which made it possible to accept the gift.

He had talked to the first responders, and they have concerns. The fire trucks weigh a considerable amount and some of the residents have said don’t worry about us. The Supervisor stated he cannot make that decision for the public. Highway Superintendent Briggs received a letter from the Caryville Fire District who are more than happy with chip sealing the road.

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that he was making his decision not only for the residents on the road but for the entire public that might use that road.

Highway Superintendent Briggs talked about the cost, he gave in January the scenario of 2 inches of gravel on the road, and he also got the Colarusso quote, which is lower than most other companies would charge. There are not many gravel beds in Columbia County and would have to go to Connecticut. It’s a fair price of \$76,000.00 per mile, not just material it’s the labor, trucking. These numbers are quite low in comparison. We have the data, and he has the experience.

Supervisor Dvorchak stated he is not interested in a road maintained with former budgetary restrictions; Superintendent Briggs does what he can do under the budget restrictions. If we are going to do this we are going with 2” as recommended at least and if there is a catastrophic incident that we could need more. That is the basis, comparisons of what has been spent under budgetary restraints are not relevant to this conversation. We have a third-party quote, we know that it is an independent firm, we know that the town can do it cheaper, the extra tonnage of gravel and calcium must be purchased. Superintendent Briggs stated that the bids this year were up \$1.00 a ton. Supervisor Dvorchak continued that there is a concern about the carbon footprint of hauling all that material every year. We have several climate groups working on a 100-year flood plan, a 500-year flood plan, a loose gravel road is not going to handle a 20 year event. Again, it is back to public safety. Yes we were able to do this for Apple Tree Lane because of the unique nature of the road.

Supervisor Dvorchak asked for any comments in closing, Superintendent Briggs is against accepting the proposal, Town Clerk Ward does not want to put the fire companies in jeopardy. Superintendent Briggs stated that it has to be 100% agreed upon, chip sealed or not chip sealed, you cannot chip seal one section and not the other, it is all or nothing. Town Clerk Ward stated that the agreement on Apple Tree Lane required the two people that were on it needed to agree to it. The same applies to Texas Hill, everyone on it needs to agree, all 20 owners. Superintendent Briggs stated that Mr. Chambers had requested years ago that the town to make it a private road which was not possible.

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that he agrees with Town Clerk Ward and Highway Superintendent Briggs that this road is problematic, Superintendent Briggs has been working on it for many years on it. He does not want to burden the 1,800 tax payers who might never have used that road.

GIFT COMMITTEE

JULY 1, 2025

PAGE 3

The recommendation to the Town Board is not to accept the gift for Texas Hill Road.  
Meeting adjourned at 12:15pm

---

Robina Ward, Town Clerk