



**TOWN OF HILLSDALE
TOWN BOARD MEETING
May 19, 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 May 19, 2026, at 7:00 pm.

Board members present:

PRESENT:

Supervisor	Mike Dvorchak
Councilmember	Irwin Feld
Councilmember	Nico Hernandez
Councilmember	Jamie Carano Nordenstrom
Councilmember	Bart Ziegler

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: 2 people spoke referencing chip sealed roads, signs and gravel.

Correspondence

Letter to DOT, Supervisors Wolf and Dvorchak, April 20
Weber, C., Taconic Creek Road, April 22
Davidsen, A. Road Maintenance, May 11

Robert's Rules of Order

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that in order to be more efficiency we follow Robert's Rules of Order. In order for a discussion to be had a motion must be made and seconded, the Councilmember that puts forth the motion speaks first and the Councilmember who seconded speaks next, followed by the remaining Councilmembers. Each Councilmember has up to 3 minutes uninterrupted, if needed a second round of discussion before a vote.

Approval of Minutes

April 14, 2026, Town Board Minutes

April 23, 2026, Town Board Minutes

On a motion of Councilmember Feld, seconded by Councilmember Carano Nordenstrom.

Councilmember Caran Nordenstrom interrupted and asked to make a motion to review one more item on the correspondence. Board members were not sent an email. The email from Charles Weber, Supervisor Dvorchak stated that the Highway Superintendent requested that it be put in the correspondence. Councilmember Carano Nordenstrom made a motion to discuss the Weber letter; it was not seconded, Supervisor Dvorchak stated hearing none, they were moving on. Councilmember Caran Nordenstrom asked that it be included in the next meeting's agenda.

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

General discussion.

The motion was

ADOPTED	Ayes 4	Dvorchak, Feld, Hernandez, Ziegler
	Abstain/Naye 1	Carano Nordenstrom

Resolved the Town Board approves April 14, 2026, and April 23, 2026, Town Board minutes.

Supervisor's Report

County Report

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that County Board of Supervisors unanimously passed a resolution supporting the bills in the New York state Assembly and the New York Senate, for stricter transparency on surcharges in addition to our electric bills. Also passed was an increase of a dollar per trash bag for the County Waste disposal, the waste management system is in the red. There is a Public Works meeting to discuss the situation further.

Town Finances

April Financials

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that we are on target for the year.

Budget Amendment 5-2026

To increase the Town Clerks contractual account by \$1,000.00, to account for the training conference attendance which was not budgeted for.

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

General discussion.

The motion was

ADOPTED	Ayes 5	Dvorchak, Feld, Hernandez, Ziegler, Carano Nordenstrom
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Resolved the Town Board approves the Budget Amendment 5-2026.

Town Clerk Report

Town Clerk Ward reported that they had learnt some new things, regulations, rules and laws. We are doing really good. Referring to records management we found the gentleman and the family business that rebinds the original vital records books. Some of our books are in really bad shape, they date back to the early 1800's, they are missing binding, are difficult to read and almost impossible to copy and are badly in need of repair. The cost of repairing them, putting them in a binder that is waterproof, fire proof would cost \$1,000.00 each and they also digitize them which would save a lot of time and effort. Our plan is to do two this year and apply for a records management grant at the beginning of next year.

Town Clerk Ward reminded the town board that any email between three or more town board members creates a record, and the Town Clerks need to be copied as the records are subject to FOIL.

Meerkat has been contacted for a quote as there is a mouse problem at the Town Hall, Highway Superintendent Briggs stated they had the same problem at the garage.

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Highway Superintendent's Report

Supervisor Dvorchak stated he had received the Monthly Report.

Highway Superintendent stated that he had two vehicles, that are no longer on the Town insurance and he wants to sell on auction, a 2010 pickup, and a 2007 International cab and chassis but no body.

Resolution 55-2026 To approve the sale at auction of a 2010 pickup, 2007 International cab and chassis.

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

General discussion.

The motion was

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Dvorchak, Feld, Hernandez, Ziegler, Carano Nordenstrom

Resolved the Town Board approves the sale at auction of a 2010 pickup, 2007 International cab and chassis.

Highway Superintendent talked about the stream on Mitchell Street, Tracy from Trout Unlimited is still working on it, there are funds available.

Highway Superintendent Briggs stated that we need to have a discussion as he did not know at who's expense would be the charged for towing vehicles on our town roads and cul-de-sac's, vehicles, garbage dumpsters, the public cannot turn around, he asked if he had permission to talk to the Town Attorney. The town plow trucks had issues with not being able to turn around. Supervisor Dvorchak stated he can authorize half an hour with the Town Attorney, if more time was needed, he can arrange further time.

Highway Superintendent Briggs stated that the department is working with one less employee as they continue to work on the roads, he is planning to start work on Pumpkin Hill Road sometime in mid to end of June.

The town needs to purchase new flag poles for the street lights.

Highway Superintendent Briggs said his last public comment, as an elected official and town resident he has grave concern about what is happening with the public offices in this town. There is a Town Board member and a member of the CAC that are contradicting his reports. The town officials should not be misrepresenting what they are doing.

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that this was a situation that happened on a town road and was the purview of the Highway Superintendent.

Supervisor Dvorchak said that there was a Cemetery data base and some money was available. The data base was started but not complete.

Sewer

Resolution 56-2026 To accept the Hillsdale Sewer Close Out Documents (SPDES Permit No. NY 0268771) as prepared by George Schmitt of CPL, Hillsdale Town Engineer.

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

General discussion.

The motion was

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Dvorchak, Feld, Hernandez, Ziegler, Carano Nordenstrom

Resolved the Town Board approves the Hillsdale Sewer Close out Documents.

Sewer Fund Status

Supervisor Dvorchak reviewed the Sewer Leach Field funding document. We need to build up reserves.

The DEC design grant results are due in June 2026.

Town Department Audits

Resolution 57-2026 To approve the Building Department, Chief Financial Officer and Town Clerks audit.

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

General discussion. Councilmembers Ziegler and Feld signed the audits that they performed.

The motion was

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Dvorchak, Feld, Hernandez, Ziegler, Carano Nordenstrom

Resolved the Town Board approves the Building Department, Chief Financial Officer and Town Clerks audit.

Resolution 58-2026 to approve NYSLRS Standard Workday Form (form RS2418).

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

The motion was

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Dvorchak, Feld, Hernandez, Ziegler, Carano Nordenstrom
Resolved the Town Board approves the NYSLRS Standard Workday Form.

Resolution 59-2026 To Approve the Event Roe Jan Summerfest for August 8, 2026.

WHEREAS, the Town Board supports the economic development of the Hamlet and the potential visitors and patrons that this event will bring, and

WHEREAS, the Roe Jan Summerfest has submitted the proper application, agreement and insurance

WHEREAS, Chapter 192 of the Code of the Town of Hillsdale, enacted as Local Law No. 3 of 2025 authorizes the Town Board to approve temporary special events within the Town of Hillsdale; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to a Resolution adopted by the Hillsdale Town Board on March 17,

2026, certain qualifying temporary special events approved pursuant to Chapter 192 of the Code of the Town of Hillsdale are designated as Type 2 actions for purposes of SEQRA, and

WHEREAS, the Roe Jan Summerfest is a qualifying special event and therefore is designated as a Type 2 action for purposes of SEQRA;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board approves the Event known as the Roe Jan Summerfest for August 8, 2026, and authorizes the Supervisor to sign the agreement.

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

General discussion.

The motion was

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Dvorchak, Feld, Hernandez, Ziegler, Carano Nordenstrom
Resolved the Town Board approves the Event known as the Roe Jan Summerfest for August 8, 2026, and authorizes the Supervisor to sign the agreement.

Resolution 60-2026 To schedule Public Hearing on Local Law 1-2026, a Local Law requires initial submissions of all Zoning applications to the Zoning Officer, on July 21 at 6:45pm at Hillsdale Town Hall.

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

General discussion.

The motion was

ADOPTED Ayes 4 Dvorchak, Feld, Hernandez, Ziegler, Carano Nordenstrom
Resolved the Town Board approval to schedule a Public Hearing on Local Law 1-2026, a Local Law requires initial submissions of all Zoning applications to the Zoning Officer, on July 21 at 6:45pm at Hillsdale Town Hall.

Infrastructure

Resolution 61-2026 To approve entering into an updated agreement with Lynkwell to install Fast Chargers in the Hamlet Park.

On a motion of Councilmember Ziegler, seconded by Councilmember Feld,

General discussion.

The motion was

ADOPTED Ayes 1 Dvorchak
 Nayes 4 Feld, Hernandez, Ziegler, Carano Nordenstrom

Resolved the Town Board does not approve entering into an updated agreement with Lynkwell to install Fast Chargers in the Hamlet Park.

Comprehensive Plan Update

Resolution 62-2026 To appoint to the Preliminary Comprehensive Plan Committee.

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

General discussion.

The motion was tabled.

Hamlet Park

Councilmember Ziegler reported that the town had ordered the bandshell kit which will be delivered in 3-5 months. Working on an RFP for the foundation and construction of the bandshell.

Climate Smart

Councilmember Carano Nordenstrom reported on the list of tasks necessary for the Silver Track.

Supervisor Dvorchak asked that the committee submit notes of their meetings.

Roe Jan Park

Councilmember Hernandez reported that they were doing spring maintenance, chips for the swing set, soil and compost for the Community Gardeners. We don't have to pay for prevailing wage as the park is maintained by donations.

Supervisor Dvorchak had an update for the Town board concerning Tate Donovan, Great Barrington had to go to the public for a referendum for a tax increase and the public voted no. They have to recalculate all their numbers and it's taking some time, so the transport service is on hold

Any other business before the town

Councilmember Hernandez stated there are issues with the entrance of the Harlem Valley Rail Trail in Hillsdale, it has been going on for years. He questioned as a town can we ask HVRT to do something about the situation. Supervisor Dvorchak stated he had spoken to the Sheriff, the DA, Copake Supervisor Richard Wolf and the HVRT.

With reference to the section of Route 23 that is closed because of a fatal accident and gasoline spill, Supervisor Dvorchak said he had spoken with the Copake Supervisor and are continuing to seek a traffic light.

Adjournment

On a motion of Councilmember Ziegler, seconded by Councilmember Feld,

The motion was approved by all members of the board at 8:50pm.

