



**TOWN OF HILLSDALE  
TOWN BOARD MEETING  
April 14, 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 April 14, 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:** Member 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:** 3 people spoke referencing chip sealed roads and Building Department permit records.

**Approval of Minutes**

March 17, 2026, Town Board Minutes

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

The motion was

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

Resolved the Town Board approves March 17, 2026, Town Board minutes.

**Supervisor's Report**

**County Report**

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that minority leader Hotaling talked about a gas tax cap at the meeting last Wednesday. Ulster and Dutchess Counties have also proposed this. This discussion will be continued at the County level. There are new hires in the Office of the Aging and the Sheriff's Department.

**Town Finances**

Our March financials are in keeping with our budget as one quarter of the year, one exception is the budget amendment to do with the Highway Department. We discussed this Resolution 108-2024; the Town Board approved purchasing a new truck with a \$250,000 bond. The truck delivery was delayed for 18-19 months. The Highway Department Budget included a bond payment for 2025 for \$50,000 and for 2026 for \$50,000, when we took out the bond it was for \$150,000.

**Budget Amendment 4-2026 Budget Amendment**

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

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

The Town Board approves 4-2026 Budget amendment.

**March Financial Report**

General Account,	\$25,613.99
Highway Fund,	\$67,841.04
Sewer Fund,	\$7161.12
Park Fund,	\$519.47

Abstracts 3/13/2026 and 3/27/2026 were reviewed by Town Board members, Dvorchak, Feld, Hernandez, Carano Nordenstrom, Ziegler and Highway Superintendent Briggs, with approvals from Dvorchak, Feld, Hernandez, Ziegler and Highway Superintendent Briggs.

**Town Clerk Report**

Town Clerk Ward stated that the Town Clerk and the Deputy Clerk will be attending the NYS Town Clerks conference on April 19, 2026 to April 22, 2026.

The Clerk had received a letter today from the DOT stating that they would be resurfacing Route 22 from the intersection of Routes 22 and 23 to north of County Route 21 and parts of New Lebanon, they did not give a start date.

**Highway Superintendent's Report**

Highway Superintendent Briggs presented his monthly report.

Highway Superintendent Briggs made a statement referencing inaccurate public accusations made by a Town Board member.

Highway Superintendent Briggs continued with his report about tree removal. He was on Pumkin Hill Road on Friday meeting with the DEC, the highway Department has spent 4 ½ days on that road with the tree service cutting dead trees.

Highway Superintendent Briggs reported that Town Clean-up Day will be May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that there were 2026 budget concerns and the price of diesel fuel has doubled, black top has increased. He stated that he did not think that there was anything they could do other than be aware and to continue to monitor the situation.

Highway Superintendent Briggs stated that he could not continue with his plans for the 284 with the increased costs.

Highway Superintendent Briggs will continue with the project on Mitchell Street scheduled between the first and second week of May.

**Resolution 00-2026** to approve the purchase of electrical equipment in order to satisfy the requirement of the \$10,000 NYSERDA Grant for reimbursement.

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

The motion was tabled.

### **Events**

**Resolution 42-2026:** To Approve the Event Old Tone Music Festival

**WHEREAS**, the Old Tone Music Festival has become a beloved Hillsdale institution having been produced in Hillsdale since 2016; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board supports the Economic Development of the area and the potential visitors and patrons that this event will bring; and

**WHEREAS**, the Old Tone Music Festival preserves roots music and traditional folkways through artist and audience participation; connecting neighbors, bridging cultures, and sharing insight and wisdom across generations; and

**WHEREAS**, The Old Tone Music Festival has submitted an extensive application with detailed event description and public emergency and safety plans; and

**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 2026-33 adopted by the Hillsdale Town Board on February 17, 2026, 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 Town Board has determined that the Old Tone Music Festival meets the standards for approval as a special event pursuant to Chapter 192 of the Code of the Town of Hillsdale and designation as a Type 2 action in accordance with Resolution 2026-33;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Board approves the Event known as the Old Tone Music Festival from September 10-13, 2026, at Cool Whisper Farm at 1011 County Route 21 and 187 Schoolhouse Road and authorizes the Supervisor to execute such documents and take such steps as are necessary to carry out the intent of this Resolution.

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

The motion was

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

Resolved the Town Board approves the Event Old Tone Music Festival.

### **Committees**

**Resolution 43-2026** To Reestablish the Open Space Committee and Advance the Open Space Plan.

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

The motion was

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

Resolved the Town Board approves to reestablish the Open Space Committee and Advance the Open Space Plan and amended to remove Councilmember Caran Nordenstrom as liaison, Councilmember Hernandez will remain.

**Resolution 44-2026** – To formally accept a \$2,500 Grant from the Bank of Green County Charitable Foundation  
\$500 – Hamlet Committee for the Hamlet Park  
\$500 – Economic Development Committee for billboard  
\$500 – Safe at Home – Community Picnic  
\$500 – Climate Smart – for energy study  
\$500 – Infrastructure Committee – bike racks

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

The motion was

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Dvorchak, Feld, Hernandez, Carano Nordenstrom, Ziegler  
Resolved the Town Board approves to formally accept a \$2,500 Grant from the Bank of Green County Charitable Foundation.

### **HECDC**

**Resolution 45- 2026** Motion to approve the purchase of a flag pole using available HECDC Funds for \$1,800 for Town Hall placement.

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

The motion was

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Dvorchak, Feld, Hernandez, Carano Nordenstrom, Ziegler  
Resolved the Town Board approves the purchase of a flag pole using available HECDC Funds for \$1,800 for Town Hall placement.

### **Events**

**Resolution 46-2026** To include the post-gathering at the Hillsdale Firehouse as part of the Town Event “Tom Carty Town Hall Park.”

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

The motion was

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Dvorchak, Feld, Hernandez, Carano Nordenstrom, Ziegler  
Resolved the Town Board approves the post-gathering at the Hillsdale Firehouse as part of the Town Event “Tom Carty Town Hall Park.”

**Resolution 47- 2026** for the Hillsdale CAC to be a co-sponsor of a screening The Extraordinary Caterpillar at the Roe Jan Library with date and time to be determined. There is no financial or insurance obligation of the Town of Hillsdale.

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

The motion was

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Dvorchak, Feld, Hernandez, Carano Nordenstrom, Ziegler  
Resolved the Town Board approves the amended resolution to include the Hillsdale CSC and CEC and the Hillsdale CAC to be a co-sponsor of a screening The Extraordinary Caterpillar at the Roe Jan Library with date and time to be determined.

### **Fast Chargers**

**Resolution 48-2026** To approve entering into agreement with Lynkwell to install Fast Chargers in the Hamlet Park.

As of April 22, 2026, 11:59 PM, NYSEG will no longer accept new applications for the EV Make-Ready Programs. The Program may be reopened in the future for Direct Current Fast Charger applications only.

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

General discussion.

The motion was

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

Resolved the Town Board approves entering into agreement with Lynkwell to install Fast Chargers in the Hamlet Park.

### **Comprehensive Plan**

**Resolution 49-2026** – To Appoint the following positions for the Smart Growth Comprehensive Contact Form.

Position one, Town Clerk Robina Ward as Grant Administrator

Position two, Planning Board Member Michael Toth as Project Manager

Deputy Supervisor Steve Tiger as MWBE Contact Minority- and/or Women-owned Business Enterprise

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

General discussion.

Resolution is amended to replace position two, Project Manager Michael Toth with Town Board member Carano Nordenstrom.

The motion was

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

Resolved the Town Board approves to appoint the approved personnel on the Comprehensive Plan Contact Form.

**Resolution 50-2026** To form a Preliminary Comprehensive Plan Committee to make a recommendation to the Town Board for a Consultant to be formed of the following members:

Planning Board Member – Michael Toth

Planning Board Member – Kyle Miller

Deputy Supervisor – Steve Tiger

CAC Member – Gretchen Stevens

Housing Committee Member – TBD

Zoning Board Member – TBD

Town Clerk Robina Ward

Town Board Liaisons: Jamie Carano Nordenstrom & Nico Hernandez

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

General discussion.

The motion was

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

Resolved the Town Board approves to form a Preliminary Comprehensive Plan Committee to make a recommendation to the Town Board for a Consultant.

### **Hamlet Park**

**RESOLUTION 51-2026** To approve purchase of a Bandshell for Hamlet Park.

**WHEREAS** the Town Board passed resolution 2026-14 authorizing the bidding process for the purchase and construction of a Bandshell in the Hillsdale Hamlet Park, and

**WHEREAS**, over the course of over a decade, the Town of Hillsdale has undertaken an extensive and inclusive public planning process for the rehabilitation and enhancement of Hamlet Park, including community meetings, workshops, surveys, and stakeholder engagement involving residents, local organizations, artists, businesses, and civic groups; and

**WHEREAS**, HGACBuy has presented a bid in the amount of \$54,369 for the purchase of a bandshell, and

**WHEREAS**, HGACBuy is a nationwide cooperative purchasing program authorized for use in New York under General Municipal Law, allowing local governments and agencies to bypass competitive bidding. It offers competitively solicited contracts for vehicles, public safety, and public works equipment.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Board authorized the purchase of a bandshell for the Hamlet Park using the grant funds designated for such purpose.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the competitive bid for a contractor to construct the bandshell shall be posted as soon as possible.

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

The motion was

ADOPTED      Ayes 5                      Dvorchak, Feld, Hernandez, Carano Nordenstrom, Ziegler  
Resolved the Town Board approves the purchase of a Bandshell for Hamlet Park.

#### **Roe Jan Park**

**Resolution 52-2026** To approve Copake Hillsdale Farmers Market 2026 License Renewal  
TERMS: 3 Year Term with \$100 increments for each year.

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

The motion was

ADOPTED      Ayes 5                      Dvorchak, Feld, Hernandez, Carano Nordenstrom, Ziegler  
Resolved, the Town Board approves the Copake Hillsdale Farmers Market 2026 License Renewal, 3 Year Term with \$100 increments for each year.

**Adjourn to Executive Session:** pursuant to Section 105(1)(f) of the Open Meetings Law to discuss the employment history of a particular person and matters leading to the appointment of a particular person.  
On a motion of Councilmember Hernandez, seconded by Councilmember Carano Nordenstrom, at 8:29 pm.

#### **Return to Public Session:**

At 8:37pm

#### **Town Court Appointment**

**Resolution 53-2026** To appoint Liz Sample to the Court Clerk position.

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

The motion was

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

Resolved the Town Board approves the appointment of Liz Sample as Court Clerk.

#### **Adjournment**

On a motion of Councilmember Feld, seconded by Councilmember Hernandez,  
The motion was approved by all members of the board at 8:38pm.