



**TOWN OF HILLSDALE
SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING
March 17, 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 March 17, 2026, at 7:00 pm.

Board members present:

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT: Councilmember Irwin Feld

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: 5 people spoke referencing Roe Jan Park and birds.

Approval of Minutes

January 20, 2026

February 10, 2026

March 5, 2026 Town Board Minutes

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

The motion was

ADOPTED	Ayes 3	Dvorchak, Hernandez, Ziegler
	Abstain	Carano Nordenstrom

Resolved the Town Board approves January 20, 2026, February 10, 2026, and March 5, 2026, Town Board minutes.

Resolution To establish protocol for use of electronic devices during Town Board Meeting.

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

General discussion.

The motion was TABLED.

Supervisor's Report

County Report

Supervisor Dvorchak encouraged members of the town board to contact the members of the senate and assembly to pass New York for All.

February Financial Report

General Account,	\$120,651.15
Highway Fund,	\$68,346.25
Sewer Fund,	\$10,595.74
Park Fund,	\$390.74
West End Bridge,	\$7,991.50

Abstracts 2/14/2026 and 2/27/2026 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.

Budget Amendment 3-2026 No Budget Amendment

Town Clerk Report

Town Clerk Ward stated that the Clerk's office was extremely busy and did not have the time to work on ChargePoint. The Town Clerk and the Deputy Clerk will be attending the NYS Town Clerks conference for the first time in 3 years, April 19, 2026 to April 22, 2026.

Highway Superintendent's Report

Highway Superintendent Briggs presented his monthly report.

Superintendent Briggs reported that Town Clean up Day will be May 9th, 2026.

Sewer

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that there were some issues at 47 Coldwater Street, where the line froze. We will be cleaning out the tank periodically and place heat tape prior to next winter. Another issue with 242 Anthony Street Extension, we are not sure if this is another issue with pipes freezing, or a lot of water getting into the tank, we are still investigating.

Resolution 31-2026 to accept CPL bid for Engineering Planning Grant through the Water Infrastructure Improvement Act.

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

ADOPTED Ayes 4 Dvorchak, Hernandez, Carano Nordenstrom, Ziegler.

Resolved the Town Board approves the bid provided by CPL for Engineering Planning Grant through the Water Infrastructure Improvement Act.

Resolution 32-2026 to approve the Remote Deposit Capture Agreement.

On a motion of Councilmember Hernandez seconded by Councilmember Ziegler.

The motion was

ADOPTED Ayes 4 Dvorchak, Hernandez, Carano Nordenstrom, Ziegler

Resolved the Town Board approves the Remote Deposit Capture Agreement.

Resolution 33-2026 To Designate Certain Temporary Special Events as Type II Actions Under SEQRA.

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

The motion was

ADOPTED Ayes 4 Dvorchak, Hernandez, Ziegler, Carano Nordenstrom,

Resolved the Town Board approves to Designate Certain Temporary Special Events as Type II Actions Under SEQRA.

Resolution 34-2026 to formally re-name the Town Hall Park as ‘The Tom Carty Town Hall Park’ and approve the Proclamation.

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

The motion was

ADOPTED Ayes 4 Dvorchak, Hernandez, Carano Nordenstrom, Ziegler

Resolved the Town Board approves to formally re-name the Town Hall Park as ‘The Tom Carty Town Hall Park’ and approve Proclamation.

Resolution 35-2026 To approve the Event Hillsdale ArtsWalk on August 8, 2026, pending submission of proper insurance.

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 Hillsdale Arts Walk has become a cherished institution over the last several years, and

WHEREAS, the Hillsdale Arts Walk highlights and promotes local artists and craftspeople, and

WHEREAS, the Hillsdale Art Walk has submitted the proper application, agreement, permission for Anthony Street closure and insurance, 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 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 Artswalk is a qualifying special event and therefore is designated as a Type 2 action for purposes of SEQRA;

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

The motion was

ADOPTED Ayes 4 Dvorchak, Hernandez, Carano Nordenstrom, Ziegler

Resolved that the Town Board approves the Event known as the Hillsdale ArtsWalk pending submission of proper insurance for August 8, 2026, and authorizes the Supervisor to sign the agreement.

Resolution 36-2026 Motion to Approve Three Town-Sanctioned Events:

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

The motion was

ADOPTED Ayes 4 Dvorchak, Hernandez, Carano Nordenstrom, Ziegler

Resolved the Town Board approves Three Town-Sanctioned Events

Resolution 36a-2026 To designate the 2026 Hillsdale Flea on Saturday, May 23, Rain Date: May 24 as a town-sanctioned event as per the application submitted by the Hamlet Committee, pending proper documentation from food vendors.

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 Hillsdale Flea has become a cherished institution over the last several years, and

WHEREAS, the Hamlet Committee has submitted the proper application, agreements, and insurance, 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 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 Hillsdale Flea 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 designates the Event known as the Hillsdale Flea for March 23, 2026 (Rain Date March 24) as an official Town event.

Resolution 36b-2026 To designate the 2026 Celebration of Tom Carty, renaming of Town Hall Park on Saturday, April 25 as a town-sanctioned event as per the application submitted by the Hamlet Committee.

WHEREAS, Tom Carty was instrumental in the creation of the Town Hall Park, and **WHEREAS**, the Town and friends and loved one's desire to celebrate his life and legacy, and

WHEREAS, the Hamlet Committee has submitted the proper application, agreements, and insurance, 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 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 Hillsdale Flea 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 designates the Event known as the Celebration of Tom Carty/Renaming of the Town Hall Park for April 25, 2026, as an official Town event.

Resolution 36c-2026 To designate the 2026 Shakespeare in the Hamlet Park/Garrin Benfield Concert on Saturday, July 18 as a town-sanctioned event as per the application submitted by the Hamlet Committee, pending any needed documentation for possible food vendors.

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 inaugural Shakespeare in the Hamlet Park was a great success drawing a hundred-plus patrons to the Hamlet Park, and

WHEREAS, the Hamlet Committee has submitted the proper application, agreements, and insurance, 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 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 Hillsdale Shakespeare in the Hamlet Park 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 designates the Event known as Shakespeare in the Hamlet Park: As Your Like It and Garrin Benfield Pre-show for July 18, 2026, as an official Town event.

Resolution 37-2026 To approve a town sanctioned event of a highway clean up of State Route 22 on April 18, 2026.

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

The motion was

ADOPTED Ayes 4 Dvorchak, Carano Nordenstrom, Ziegler, Hernandez,
Resolved the Town Board approves the town sanctioned event of a highway clean-up of State Route 22 on April 18, 2026.

Resolution 38-2026 To Support the Harlem Valley Rail Trail and Authorizing Exploration of a Maintenance Agreement.

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

The motion was

ADOPTED Ayes 3 Dvorchak, Carano Nordenstrom, Ziegler
Abstain Hernandez,

Resolved the Town Board approves the Support of the Harlem Valley Rail Trail and authorizes exploration of a Maintenance Agreement.

Hamlet Park

Resolution 39-2026 Hamlet Park Bandshell Revised Map.

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

The motion was

ADOPTED Ayes 4 Dvorchak, Hernandez, Carano Nordenstrom, Ziegler
Resolved the Town Board approves the Hamlet Park Bandshell Revised Map.

Resolution 40-2026 NYSERDA Grants.

Purchase of Electronic Equipment for Highway Department.

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

The motion was

ADOPTED Ayes 4 Dvorchak, Hernandez, Carano Nordenstrom, Ziegler
Resolved the Town Board approves the Purchase of Electronic Equipment for Highway Department.

Roe Jan Park

Councilmember Hernandez spoke with the Sheriff about traffic calming for the Farmers Market. He met with the Community Gardeners who grow food for the Food Pantry, he has a wish list of things they would like and will work on a budget for these items. RJ Park will be participating in NYS I love my Park program on May 2, 2026, and will be doing some PR, and will be clipping invasive plants.

Adjourn to Executive Session to discuss the medical or employment history of a particular person or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person.

On a motion of Councilmember Hernandez, seconded by Supervisor Dvorchak at 8:27pm.

Return to Public Session:

On a motion of Councilmember Ziegler, seconded by Councilmember Carano Nordenstrom at 8:31pm.
ADOPTED Ayes 5 Dvorchak, Feld, Hernandez, Ziegler, Carano Nordenstrom.

Planning Board Appointment

Resolution 41-2026 to appoint Tucker McNamee to the open position on the Planning Board.

On a motion of councilmember Ziegler, seconded by Councilmember Carano Nordenstrom.

The motion was

ADOPTED Ayes 4 Dvorchak, Hernandez, Carano Nordenstrom, Ziegler

Resolved to appoint Tucker McNamee to the open position on the Planning Board.

Informational Items

Abandonment of Roads

General Discussion.

Adjournment

On a motion of Councilmember Hernandez, seconded by Councilmember Carano Nordenstrom at 8:45 pm.

The motion was

ADOPTED Ayes 4 Dvorchak, Hernandez, Carano Nordenstrom, Ziegler.

Robina Ward, Town Clerk

