



**TOWN OF HILLSDALE  
TOWN BOARD MEETING  
January 13, 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 January 13, 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
Richard Briggs	Highway Superintendent
Steve Tiger	Deputy Supervisor
Jackie Salvatore	Columbia County Sheriff

**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**

Four speakers referencing paving of dirt roads.

**Approval of Minutes**

**Town Board Meeting December 16, 2025**

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

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Dvorchak, Feld, Hernandez, Carano Nordenstrom, Ziegler  
Resolved the Town Board approves the December 16, 2025, minutes.

**Town Board Organizational Meeting Minutes January 5, 2025**

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

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Dvorchak, Feld, Hernandez, Carano Nordenstrom, Ziegler  
Resolved the Town Board approves the January 5, 2026, minutes.

**Supervisor's Report**

Supervisor Dvorchak introduced Jackie Salvatore, the new Columbia County Sheriff. Sheriff Salvatore stated that she will try and attend as many town board meetings in Columbia County as possible so that the Sheriffs office is aware of what is needed in every town.

**County Report**

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that he had been reappointed to the Economic Development Committee and the Public Works Committee. He voted against Matt Murrell as chair of the board and thought that his actions invalidating the petition signatures did not warrant him being the leader of the County.

**December Financial Report**

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that year end bills will still be coming in during February, the town accountant closes the books in March – April, the report is sent to the Comptroller's office the first week in April, we will get a report for the March meeting.

General discussion re ChargePoint and electricity.

**Abstract Disbursements for December 2025:**

General Account,	\$42,108.83
Highway Fund,	\$108,085.35
Sewer Fund,	\$168,987.62
Park Fund,	\$462.43

Abstracts 12/09/2025 and 12/19/2025 were reviewed by Town Board members, Dvorchak, Feld, Tiger, Virello, Carano Nordenstrom and Highway Superintendent Briggs, with approvals from Dvorchak, Feld, Tiger, Virello and Highway Superintendent Briggs.

**Budget Amendment 01-2026**

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that there is a budget amendment for January 2026.

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

The motion was

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Dvorchak, Feld, Hernandez, Carano Nordenstrom, Ziegler  
Resolved the Town Board approves the Budget Amendment 01-2026.

**Town Clerk Report**

Town Clerk Ward stated that we had received the quote to upgrade the phone software.

**Resolution 3-2026** To accept the Avaya quote for the upgraded phone service at a onetime cost of \$1,100.00 and an annual software contract of \$995.00.

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

The motion was

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Dvorchak, Feld, Hernandez, Carano Nordenstrom, Ziegler  
Resolved the Town Board approves the Avaya quote for the upgraded phone service at a onetime cost of \$1,100.00 and an annual software contract of \$995.00.

**Highway Superintendent's Report**

Highway Superintendent Briggs presented his monthly report.

Highway Superintendent Briggs said that there were a couple of things to discuss, the bids for materials and the Trout Unlimited phone calls, Gretchen Stevens member of the CAC is working with them as there are many avenues of funding for the culvert pipes discussed last year and in prior years, 2019, therefore not using CHIPS funding.

Supervisor Dvorchak put the DOT response to speed limits in the public record; no signage will be placed because of frozen ground. We can discuss it in the February or March meeting.

Highway Superintendent Briggs said the state has taken on the responsibility of deciding the speed limits on the roads but were only denying the requests. The surveys cost thousands of dollars and the state does not have the funds, which is why they deny the requests. He suggested that this issue be referred to the County. There was a Traffic Safety Board within the County. Further general discussion on speed limits.

Highway Superintendent Briggs stated that we had received bids for materials, there was general discussion about the bids not being circulated to the Town Board before the meeting. Town Clerk Ward stated that it was her mistake. The bids were received by the correct date and time on Monday January 12, 2026.

Highway Superintendent Briggs stated that his contract ends with these providers on January 15, 2026. The bids were advertised for three days in the newspaper of record, the Register Star.

Highway Superintendent Briggs stated that the bids were on par with last year.

**Resolution 4-2026** to accept the bids for material and tree service as presented.

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

The motion was

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

Resolved the Town Board approves bids for material and tree service as presented.

Highway Superintendent Briggs stated that he did not have to bid to pave any section of road, because there are County contracts that he can piggy back on. He stated that to get the best for the taxpayers of Hillsdale he takes it one step further and spends \$300 dollars to put a bid in the paper to keep everybody honest.

General discussion on bid requests.

#### Truck Bond

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that the Town board passed Resolution 108-2024 for a \$250,000.00 bond for a new truck, the truck is now ready almost two years after placing the order. After discussions with Highway Superintendent Briggs, we budgeted \$54,000.00 for 5 years to pay back that bond. Now two years later, we will take the past two years of bond reimbursements to reduce the bond to \$150,000.00 over three years. The town will be paying \$50,000.00 per year over three years at a lower interest rate. The closing date is set for January 30, 2026.

#### 284 Agreement

**Resolution 5-2026** to approve the 284 agreement for 2026

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

The 284 was received and sent to the board upon receipt and posted immediately after receiving it on Monday January 12, 2026.

Councilmember Carano Nordenstrom suggested that residents on the roads listed on the 284 be notified in some way like the Newsletter. Supervisor Dvorchak responded that this was highly publicized and in the town Newsletter and a gift was solicited from anybody on a dirt road, we received no enquiries. It was all over social media. The town board has fiduciary oversight.

Councilmember Carano Nordenström stated that there was a mechanism where the town could give back the road. It is from the Cornell roads program.

Further general discussion.

The Highway Superintendent stated that the first part of the 284 needed to be approved. He suggested that the motion be amended.

The motion was amended to accept the 284 except for the roads for permanent improvements.  
On a motion of Councilmember Feld, seconded by Councilmember Hernandez.

The motion was

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Dvorchak, Feld, Hernandez, Carano Nordenstrom, Ziegler.  
Resolved the Town Board approves 284 except for the roads for permanent improvements.

### **Sewer District Report**

#### **Close out documents**

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that we were waiting for a few parts. The project is not officially done until the straw is taken off.

#### **DEC Site visit report**

It was rated satisfactory, which was an improvement. The DEC are expecting the close out documents by the end of January.

#### **State Comptroller's Office**

Town Clerk Ward stated that she had received a phone call from the Regional Comptroller's Office, the gentleman introduced himself as the Regional Director of the Comptroller's Office for New York. He stated that he was appreciative of the letter that was sent, the transparency of the Town Board and the Supervisor for writing it and wished other towns did the same thing. He was very happy with what we were doing and to keep up the good work. He was well aware of small towns' struggles with their sewer districts.

### **Relocation of Light Poles**

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that they have begun work, the concrete based are in. The town engineer has been on site.

### **Fund Balance Policy**

We need to review every January.

The fund balances are included in the monthly report.

General discussion.

### **Hamlet Park**

Councilmember Ziegler has been researching kits for the bandshell designs. This has been a goal for many years. We have received grants.

He has narrowed it down to three companies. The town engineer needs to be involved.

The location has been decided. The electric chargers are part of the project.

Further general discussions.

### **Comprehensive Plan**

Councilmember Carano Nordenstrom stated that the project cannot start as the grant does not cover anything until April 2026.

We will discuss it at the next meeting.

### **Anthony Street and Coldwater Street**

Councilmember Feld is working on letters of support, due February 12, 2026.

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that Justin at CPL is working on the letters of intent, due January 15, 2026

### **Roe Jan Park**

Councilmember Hernandez said that there was communication about a donation of a dedicated park bench. He is working with Joe Rocco on the Summer Youth Program and is meeting with the Farmers Market.

**Knox Trail Event**

Supervisor Dvorchak said it was a really great event and thanked the Hillsdale Firehouse for all the work. He thanked the Town Historians, County Clerk, all the reenactors, the State senator of the Berkshires. We received a proclamation from State Senator Hinchey and a citation from Assembly member Barrett.

Any other Business that may come before the Town

**Adjourn to Executive Session**

On a motion of Councilmember Feld, seconded by Councilmember Hernandez to discuss a personnel issue, at 8:36pm.

Supervisor Dvorchak asked Highway Superintendent Briggs, Deputy Supervisor Steve Tiger, the Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk to join the Town Board.

**Return to Public Session**

On a motion of Councilmember Feld, seconded by Councilmember Hernandez to discuss a personnel issue, at 8:44pm.

**Adjournment**

On a motion of Councilmember Feld, seconded by Councilmember Hernandez at 8.45 pm.

The motion was

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

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Robina Ward, Town Clerk