



**TOWN OF HILLSDALE  
TOWN BOARD MEETING  
October 21, 2025  
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 special 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 October 21, 2025, at 7:00 pm.

Board members present:

**PRESENT:**

Supervisor	Mike Dvorchak
Councilmember	Joanna Virello
Councilmember	Steve Tiger
Councilmember	Jamie Carano Nordenstrom
Councilmember	Irwin Feld

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Robina Ward	Town Clerk
Emily Stalker	Deputy Town Clerk
Bart Ziegler	Deputy Supervisor

**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**

Two speakers.

**Approval of Minutes**

**September 16th, 2025**

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

The motion was

ADOPTED	Ayes 4	Dvorchak, Virello, Tiger, Carano Nordenstrom
	Abstain	Feld

Resolved the Town Board approves the September 16, 2025, minutes.

**September 25th, 2025**

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

The motion was

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ADOPTED        Ayes 4                Dvorchak, Virello, Tiger, Carano Nordenstrom  
                     Abstain                Feld

Resolved the Town Board approves the September 25, 2025, minutes.

September 26th, 2025

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

ADOPTED        Ayes 4                Dvorchak, Virello, Tiger, Carano Nordenstrom  
                     Abstain                Feld

Resolved the Town Board approves the September 26, 2025, minutes.

October 6, 2025

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

ADOPTED        Ayes 4                Dvorchak, Virello, Tiger, Carano Nordenstrom  
                     Abstain                Feld

Resolved the Town Board approves the October 6, 2025, minutes.

October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025

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

ADOPTED        Ayes 4                Dvorchak, Virello, Tiger, Feld  
                     Abstain                Carano Nordenstrom

Resolved the Town Board approves the October 14, 2025, minutes.

**Supervisor's Report**

County Report

Supervisor Dvorchak reported that the County is also in the midst of budget season. All departments have been asked to find cost savings in order to reduce the tax burden.

The NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services informed the County Board that FEMA has designated the Columbia County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update as Approvable Pending Adoption (APA) for all participating jurisdictions. Hillsdale has sent in their approval of the plan.

September Financial Report

Abstract Disbursements for September 2025:

General Account, 230-273	\$24,493.06
Highway Fund, 127-142	\$279,961.07
Sewer Fund, 31-37	\$35,237.49
Park Fund, 23-29	\$ 6,138.01

Abstracts 9/3/2025, 9/15/2025 and 9/29/2025 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**

Budget Amendment 10a-2025

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that there is a budget amendment for October 2025.

On a motion of Councilmember Tiger, seconded by Councilmember Irwin.

The motion was

ADOPTED        Ayes 3                Dvorchak, Virello, Tiger, Feld  
                     Abstain                Carano Nordenstrom

Resolved the Town Board approves the Budget Amendment 10a-2025.

#### **Town Clerk Report**

Town Clerk Ward stated that they are working on Vital records, sewer billing for the relevy to the county and the reimbursements for the sewer grants.

#### **Sewer District Report**

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that McCagg was at the plant working on the new absorption fields.

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that the initial payment request for the McCagg Contracting in the amount of \$102,000 came in yesterday and will be in Friday's abstracts. He alerted the Board that a transfer to cover the withdrawal will be made from the General Fund into the Sewer fund as per Resolution 142-2025.

Supervisor Dvorchak reported that the project is going well. He thanked the highway superintendent and department for their hauling services and for being flexible in getting more material to the site. DEC is being constantly appraised of the progress and is pleased with the project. We are still on schedule for an early November completion date.

Highway Superintendent Briggs stated that the prior administration was responsible for the leakage of the absorption fields and should be held accountable for what they did not do. Highway Superintendent Briggs thanked Supervisor Dvorchak for his work on securing the grants and funds to pay for the rehabilitation.

#### **Sewer is at capacity, moratorium on any new hookups**

George Schmitt from CPL has written a letter stating that no new sewer hookups are possible at this time. The situation will be reevaluated once the project is finished, but that it we believe we are at capacity; this will be a DEC decision. There was a miscalculation of capacity at the onset of the construction of the facility.

General discussion on the Sewer plant and the future plans.

#### **Relocation of Light Poles on State Route 23**

Supervisor related that work is scheduled to begin on Monday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, all residents have been notified by mail and on the website. The town engineer, George Schmitt will be here to supervise.

#### **Highway Superintendent's Report**

Highway Superintendent Briggs presented his monthly report. He stated that they had been hauling the materials for the Sewer Plant.

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that the discussion on the Cemetery Maintenance would be post-Thanksgiving.

General discussion on Cemetery funding.

#### **West End Bridge**

**Resolution 160-2025** to accept the contract from GPI for consulting services and to grant permission for the Supervisor to sign.

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

The motion was

ADOPTED      Ayes 5                      Dvorchak, Virello, Tiger, Feld, Carano Nordenstrom

Resolved the Town Board to accept the contract from GPI for consulting services and to grant permission for the Supervisor to sign.

#### **Transportation Survey**

Supervisor Dvorchak reported that there may be funding available and a grant submission by the group South County Connector out of Great Barrington. Safe at Home members have been in touch with Tate Coleman, Senior Transit planner, after Mr. Coleman reached out to the Town of Hillsdale to gauge interest. The first step would be to gather survey results.

**Resolution 161-2025** to approve survey of residents regarding public transportation.

On a motion of Councilmember Tiger, seconded by Councilmember Virello,

The motion was

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Dvorchak, Virello, Tiger, Feld, Carano Nordenstrom

Resolved the Town Board to approve survey of residents regarding public transportation.

**Community Rescue Squad**

**Resolution 162-2025** to approve the Chargeback agreement with Columbia County for Copake Community Rescue Squad in the amount of \$150,273.

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

The motion was

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Dvorchak, Virello, Tiger, Feld, Carano Nordenstrom

Resolved the Town Board to approve the Chargeback agreement with Columbia County for Copake Community Rescue Squad in the amount of \$150,273.

**Solar Panels on Highway Garage**

**Resolution 163-2025** to accept bid from Clemens Electric in the amount of \$25,877.00 for Solar Panel Installation on the Highway Garage.

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

General discussion.

The motion was tabled pending more information.

**Roe Jan Park**

Supervisor Dvorchak asked for a needs assessment, condition of buildings, initiatives, dog run, etc.

Councilmember Virello said that Bill and Zelda were working on it.

**Any other Business that may come before the Town.**

Supervisor Dvorchak made comments about the Knox Trail event at the Hillside Firehouse.

**Adjournment**

On a motion of Councilmember Feld, seconded by Councilmember Tiger at 7:58 pm.

The motion was

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Dvorchak, Feld, Tiger, Virello, Carano Nordenstrom.

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Robina Ward, Town Clerk