



**TOWN OF HILLSDALE  
TOWN BOARD MEETING  
August 19, 2025  
Minutes**

The regular 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 August 19, 2025, at 7:00 pm.

Board members present:

**PRESENT:** Supervisor Mike Dvorchak  
Councilmember Irwin Feld  
Councilmember Steve Tiger  
Councilmember Jamie Carano Nordenstrom  
**ABSENT:** Councilmember Joanna Virello

**ALSO PRESENT:** Emily Stalker Deputy Town Clerk  
Richard Briggs Highway Superintendent  
Bart Ziegler Deputy Supervisor  
George Schmitt Town Engineer via Zoom

**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**

Five speakers

**Correspondence**

**Approval of Minutes**

July 15, 2025, Town Board Minutes

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

Councilmember Carano Nordenstrom commented that the abstain votes were not counted.

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that he would discuss this with the Town Clerk upon her return.

The motion was

ADOPTED Ayes 4 Dvorchak, Feld, Tiger, Carano Nordenstrom

The Town Board approves July 15, 2025, town Board Minutes.

July 21, 2025, Special Meeting Minutes.

Councilmember Carano Nordenstrom stated that in the minutes on page 2 that she would have the application by the end of business the next day. This was incorrect.

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

The motion was

ADOPTED        Ayes 4                Dvorchak, Feld, Tiger, Carano Nordenstrom

The Town Board approves the minutes of July 21, 2025, Town Board Minutes, amended with the date of July 29<sup>th</sup> as the correct due date.

### **Supervisor's Report**

#### **County Report**

Supervisor Dvorchak report that he was one of six supervisors to call for the resignation of the Chair of the Columbia County Board of Supervisors. 4,000 signatures were submitted, objections were made, what is not acceptable is having an objector come into his office and being asked to sign the objections at 401 State Street, that was a use of public property for partisan purposes. The other Supervisors did not vote to bring a resolution for censure and not resignation. The resolution will not be on the ballot for November due to technicality.

#### **July Financial Report**

Supervisor Dvorchak went over the mid-year financials for last month and we are entering budget season. Budget meeting schedule was emailed out a couple of weeks ago.

#### **Budget Amendment 8-2025**

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that there is no budget amendment for August 2025

#### **Abstract Disbursements for July 2025:**

General Account, 202-228	\$25,991.20
Highway Fund, 106-126	\$60,413.85
Sewer Fund, 26-28	\$38,573.25
Park Fund, 17-22	\$ 1,028.29

Abstracts 7/4/2025 and 7/18/2025 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.

#### **Town Clerk Report**

Deputy Town Clerk Stalker stated that the KISS shedder bins will open in September for two weeks.

#### **Sewer District Report**

##### **Absorption Bed Issue**

Supervisor Dvorchak led the Board through the current state of the Sewer Fund detailing the four grants outstanding and the reimbursement status.

##### **Projected Project Cost \$477,945**

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that the Sewer District received half a million plus 50 thousand dollars in grants which are reimbursable. New York State takes their time to reimburse us so there will be a time when we will be in a lot of debt. Some items were not reimbursed as they were deemed as maintenance. One of the Control Panels was removed from a building in the district, the shared tank needed to be pumped out and the control panel replaced, the owner will pay the costs. There will be a small amount of debt at the end of the project which will be paid back over the next year or two.

DEC Report

We received a report of satisfactory, which is very good considering where we were. James Malcolm from the DEC has been very cooperative and hands-on. They are requiring us to complete the project this year before winter and we will be able to do it.

DEC Grant for engineering

Supervisor Dvorchak expressed disappointment at not receiving the engineering grant for a whole new system but stated that we could try again next year. Long term planning.

Engineering Plans for Absorption Beds

George Schmitt, from CPL our Town Engineer, joined the meeting via Zoom to explain the plans for the absorption beds rehabilitation. The plans show a new leach field that will be placed adjacent to the existing fields. New pump system in the plant area, new separate cells which will be created by installing a clay barrier between each of the systems. They will be similar to what is there now and will be built a little higher above ground water, increased efficiency and longevity. Not a permanent solution but the best we can do with the property and the system that we have. Two DEC biologists were at the plant to confirm that there are state wetlands and that the wetlands wrap around this parcel. This project will make us compliant with the DEC. The cost is approximately \$477,000.00; with the help of the Highway Department, they significantly reduced the cost and are ready to begin hauling in early September. Mr. Edelman, who owns the surrounding land, will be asked about storage of materials, sand, gravel, clay, stone etc. CPL will get several prices from contractors and suggest a contractor to work on the fields as this is an emergency it will not go out for bid. Supervisor Dvorchak stated that there might be a special town board meeting to approve the contractor, and it might happen very quickly. The project might be completed by the end of September.

**Resolution 137-2025: To Approve the Engineering Plans for the Absorption Bed Rehabilitation Project**

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

The motion was

ADOPTED      Ayes 4                      Dvorchak, Feld, Tiger, Carano Nordenstrom

Resolved the Town Board approves the plans as submitted for the rehabilitation of the absorption beds at the Wastewater Plant.

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board Passed Resolution 77-2025 which approve declaring the remediation of the absorption bed as an emergency.

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board Passed Resolution 91-2025 engaging Town Engineer George Schmitt from CPL to prepare a design for the construction of new absorption beds, and

**WHEREAS**, George Schmitt has submitted complete plans to the Town Board, and

**WHEREAS**, James Malcolm, as the Town's representative from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has given preliminary approval, and

**WHEREAS**, George Schmitt has met on site with DEC biologists Will Bouto and Ron Kichurchak who also have given approval.

Councilmember Carano Nordenstrom questioned reimbursement from 22 Anthony Street, a private property. General discussion.

**Highway Superintendent's Report**

Highway Superintendent Briggs submitted his monthly report.

Mitchell Street Culvert Assessment

**Resolution 138-2025 To Approve the allocation of \$1,600 from the Highway Unassigned Fund Balance and authorizes the Hillsdale Town Supervisor to sign the agreement with CPL.**

CPL will determine if this culvert needs to be replaced or can be rehabilitated.

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

The motion was

ADOPTED Ayes 4 Dvorchak, Feld, Tiger, Carano Nordenstrom

Resolved, that the Town Board approves the allocation of \$1,600 from the Highway Unassigned Fund Balance and authorizes the Hillsdale Town Supervisor to sign the agreement with CPL.

**WHEREAS**, the culvert on Mitchell Street located approximately 500 ft north of State Route 23 is showing signs of aging, with visible cracks and deteriorating wing walls, and

**WHEREAS**, Hillsdale Highway Superintendent is recommending a professional evaluation be done to determine if the culvert can be rehabilitated or should be replaced entirely, and

**WHEREAS**, Hillsdale Town Engineer, CPL, has prepared a proposal for \$1,600 to perform the needed assessment

Supervisor Dvorchak asked Councilmember Carano Nordenstrom to talk about culverts and the CAC applying for grants. General discussion on past applications between Highway Superintendent Briggs, Supervisor Dvorchak and Councilmember Carano Nordenstrom, grant applications will be reviewed and discussed for 2026.

Cemetery Maintenance , Cemetery Database, Cemetery Report

Supervisor Dvorchak and Highway Superintendent Briggs discussed that the list was incomplete and needed to be updated for budget purposes.

Event Approvals

Roe Jan Ramble Request

**Resolution 139-2025 to approve the Roe Jan Ramble as a Town Sponsored Event**

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

The motion was

ADOPTED Ayes 4 Dvorchak, Feld, Tiger, Carano Nordenstrom

Resolved, that the Town Board approves the Roe Jan Ramble as a Town Sponsored Event.

Holiday Tree Lighting

**Resolution 140-2025: To Approve the Town Event Holiday Tree Lighting for December 6, 2025**

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

The motion was

ADOPTED Ayes 4 Dvorchak, Feld, Tiger, Carano Nordenstrom

Resolved, that the Town Board approves the event known as the Hillsdale Holiday Tree Lighting in Cullen Park on December 6, 2025

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

**WHEREAS**, last year's Holiday Tree Lighting was a success,

**WHEREAS**, the Holiday Tree Lighting is a chance to partner and support Hillsdale Fire Company #1,

**WHEREAS**, the Hillsdale Holiday Tree Lighting has submitted the proper application, 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 July 15, 2025, 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.

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

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that we are waiting for a final piece of paperwork from the contractor before we can begin scheduling.

**Resignation of Court Clerk, Elizabeth R. Angello as of 12/31/25**

Supervisor Dvorchak thanked Elizabeth for making great improvements in the working of our Court Department. The Town Clerk will be placing an ad in the Register Star when she returns.

**Roe Jan Park**

Councilmember Virello is not in attendance.

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

**Adjournment to Executive Session** to discuss upcoming negotiations with Highway Departments represented by Teamsters Local 295 and to include the Highway Superintendent and the Deputy Supervisor at 8.02pm. On a motion of Councilmember Tiger, seconded by Councilmember Feld.

The motion was

ADOPTED      Ayes 4              Dvorchak, Feld, Tiger, Carano Nordenstrom.

**Return to Town Board Meeting**

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

The motion was

ADOPTED      Ayes 4              Dvorchak, Feld, Tiger, Carano Nordenstrom.

To return to Town Board Meeting at 8:29pm.

**Adjournment**

On a motion of Councilmember Feld, seconded by Councilmember Tiger at 8:31pm.

The motion was

ADOPTED      Ayes 4              Dvorchak, Feld, Tiger, Carano Nordenstrom.

---

Emily Stalker, Deputy Town Clerk