



**TOWN OF HILLSDALE
TOWN BOARD MEETING
June 17, 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 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 June 17, 2025, at 7:00 pm.

Board members present:

PRESENT:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

Robina Ward	Town Clerk
Emily Stalker	Deputy Town Clerk
Richard Briggs	Highway Superintendent

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

Comments on Gift proposal and dirt roads.

Approval of Minutes

May 20, 2025, Public Hearing Minutes and Town Board Meeting

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

The motion was

ADOPTED	Ayes 4	Dvorchak, Virello, Feld, Tiger
	Abstain 1	Carano Nordenstrom

The Town Board approves May 20, 2025, Town Board Meeting Minutes.

May 29, 2025, Special Town Board Meeting

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

The motion was

ADOPTED Ayes 4 Dvorchak, Virello, Feld, Tiger
 Abstain 1 Carano Nordenstrom

The Town Board approves May 29, 2025, Special Town Board Meeting Minutes.

Correspondence

Dvorchak, D. to Nicosia, M. June 1, Migratory Bird Issue
Shrank, B and Mechling, L. – Remediation of Texas Hill Road.
Levin, K June 17 – Swedish documentary on 5G
Doucette, C. June 17 – Seminar on 5G

Supervisor's Report

May Financial Report

Supervisor Dvorchak reported that Hillsdale remains in good financial shape and that budgets are in line with approaching the half-year mark.

Discussion on agenda between Councilmember Carano Nordenstrom and Supervisor Dvorchak.

Abstract Disbursements for April 2025:

General Account, 125-142	\$ 18,756.70
Highway Fund, 77-86	\$150,686.12
Sewer Fund, 14-17	\$41,277.85
Park Fund, 4-6	\$452.13

Abstracts 5/13/2025 and 5/29/2025 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.

County Report

Short Term Rental

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that letters have been sent to those who list on Airbnb and other STR services. The date to file for compliance is July 1. The County will be assigning individual identification numbers for each Airbnb unit which the town can use for its records also. The Town Clerk and Code Enforcement officer have taken online training with Granicus. It is a work in progress.

Councilmember Carano Nordenstrom asked a question about the May Financial statement. A discussion on CHIPS reimbursements followed.

Budget Amendment 6-2025

Supervisor Dvorchak reviewed the budget amendment, for A1680.4 Central Data Information to add \$20,600.00 to this line and to retroactively recode the first payment of \$5,000.00 into Central Data Information. Also adding \$500.00 to the Highway Superintendents .4 account, all to come from the contingency account.

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

The motion was

ADOPTED Ayes 4 Dvorchak, Virello, Feld, Tiger
Abstain 1 Carano Nordenstrom

Resolved that the Town Board approves the 6- 2025 Budget Amendment.

Resolution 96 – 2025

Approval of payment to Joe Vining from A1680.4 Central Data Information

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

The motion was

ADOPTED	Ayes 4	Dvorchak, Virello, Feld, Tiger,
	Abstain 1	Carano Nordenstrom

Resolved that the Town Board approves the payment to Joe Vining from A1680.4 Central Data Information.

Town Clerk Report

Town Clerk Ward stated that they have had an exceptionally busy month, consisting of issuing licenses and permits, vouchering for all town billing, payroll, Sewer billing, the documentation for the Summer Youth Program, grant reimbursement documentation requests for Barrett and Hinchey, posting RFP's and RFQ's on the web for major town projects, West End Bridge and the Street Light relocation, a daily update of records, and continuing work on the website, not forgetting the monthly Newsletter.

Local Law 2025-3:

A Local Law to Authorize Special Events in the Town of Hillsdale

Supervisor Dvorchak gave a little background information, several years ago Falcon Ridge made a request to hold a music festival on private property. The Town Board referred it to the Zoning Board. Attorney Dow has stated that there is no statutory authority for the Zoning Board to issue a permit. Supervisor Dvorchak stated that we would hold a Public Hearing – Monday, June 30 at Noon, followed by a Special Meeting at 12:15 PM.

Resolution 97 – 2025

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

The motion was

ADOPTED	Ayes 4	Dvorchak, Virello, Feld, Tiger
	Abstain 1	Carano Nordenstrom

Resolved that the Town Board approves the Local Law to authorize Special Events in the Town of Hillsdale.

Sewer District Report

Status of Fabric & Panel Replacement

Supervisor Dvorchak reported that the fabrics and panels are fully installed. Jamie Malcolm at the DEC is very pleased that we will get some new test results. Supervisor Dvorchak thanked our Sewer Operator Les Coon for overseeing the project.

Barrett Grant #27508

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that the Authority has audited request #1 that was submitted against the grant project above. They will be processing a payment in the amount of \$31,983.80 on June 16, 2025. Request #2 – has been submitted - \$80,340.19.

Hinchey Grant #28022

GDA Agreement has been approved.

Motion for Supervisor and Town Attorney to Sign the GDA Agreement

Resolution 98 – 2025

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

The motion was

ADOPTED	Ayes 5	Dvorchak, Virello, Feld, Tiger, Carano Nordenstrom
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Resolved that the Town Board approves the Supervisor and Town Attorney to sign the GDA Agreement.

Absorption Bed Issue

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that he wanted to be very transparent about our finances. Current Balance as of June 10, 2025, assets of \$26,017.00, once debts are repaid with grant reimbursements, leaves a balance of \$116,000.00, minus the recurring yearly repayment of \$30,000.00, plus the quarterly EDU charges in July. The cost of the replacement beds is estimated as \$477,000.00, we can probably take \$77,000.00 from the cash reserves. Supervisor Dvorchak has been talking to Barrett and Hinchey's offices who have said they will contribute the amount we do not know. The Rheinstrom and Hudson River Bank and Trust declined offering a grant. CPL is working on a plan for the new leach fields and the Highway Department has offered their help. The DEC is requiring the town to complete this work by winter.

Highway Superintendent's Report

Highway Superintendent Briggs submitted his monthly report.

284 Amended

Resolution 99 – 2025

On a motion of Councilmember Feld, seconded by Councilmember Virello. Texas Hill Road – Letter from Supervisor Kersten is confirming that it is a town road by use and it is 3 rods, 16.5 feet, in width meaning 49.5 feet, 25 feet from the center includes shoulders, drainage, any utilities, tree work. Any member of the Highway Department working on that road is working on town property. The town has full authority to work to maintain shoulders, drainage, obstructions within those 50 feet. Councilmember Carano Nordenstrom stated that she had just received the documentation and was reviewing it. General discussion on Chip sealing and CHIPS reimbursements and the Highway Budget.

The motion was

ADOPTED	Ayes 4	Dvorchak, Virello, Feld, Tiger
	Nay 1	Carano Nordenstrom

Resolved that the Town Board approves the amended 284.

Gift Committee Report

Gift Committee Recommendation

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that we received a proposal from Honey Dog Farm. The recommendation is to accept based on the following criteria, public safety, there are no residents on this road nor is it a vital throughfare. We received the resident approval. The amount offered was sufficient to alleviate the burden on the town taxpayers.

Motion to accept conditional Gift (\$20,000 for .49 Miles/\$40,816 per mile per year) to be used by the Town of Hillsdale for the specified purpose of gravel road maintenance on Appletree Lane.

Resolution 100 – 2025

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

The motion was

ADOPTED	Ayes 4	Dvorchak, Virello, Feld, Tiger
	Abstain 1	Carano Nordenstrom

Resolved that the Town Board approves the gift proposal for Apple Tree Lane.

Shared Services/Columbia County Highway Department

The Town Board authorizes the Supervisor to sign the Highway Shared Services five-year agreement with Columbia County and all entities who are included in the county.

Resolution 101 – 2025

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

The motion was

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

Resolved that the Town Board authorizes the Supervisor to sign the Highway Shared Services five-year agreement with Columbia County and all entities who are included in the county.

Resolution 102-2025

For the Town of Hillsdale Highway Department to work with all entities included in the Shared Services County Agreement.

On a motion of Councilmember Feld seconded by Supervisor Dvorchak.

The motion was

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

Resolved that the Town of Hillsdale Highway Department works with all participants included in the County Shared Services Agreement.

Cemetery Maintenance

Receipt of Check for \$6,000 from West Hillsdale Cemetery on Craryville Road.

Will be discussed at the July Town Board meeting.

Relocation of Light Poles on State Route 23

Councilmember Feld stated that we had been reimbursed by the insurance companies and will order replacement poles to be paid from insurance settlements. CPL is working with the DOT who have approved of the relocation.

Resolution 103 – 2025

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

The motion was

ADOPTED Ayes 4 Dvorchak, Virello, Feld, Tiger

Abstain 1 Carano Nordenstrom

Resolved that the Town Board approves to order replacement poles to be paid from insurance settlements

Code Enforcement Officer Audit

Resolution 104 – 2025

On a motion of Councilmember Feld, seconded by Supervisor Dvorchak.

The motion was

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

Resolved that the Town Board approves the Code enforcement Officer audit for 2024.

West End Bridge Engineer Selection

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that three Firms submitted qualifications for the West End Bridge Project:

Recommendation from Committee: GPI

The town is looking at 2027 for construction.

Motion to appoint GPI as the Engineer for the West End Bridge Project.

Resolution 105 – 2025

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

The motion was

ADOPTED Ayes 4 Dvorchak, Virello, Feld, Tiger

Abstain 1 Carano Nordenstrom

Resolved that the Town Board approves to appoint GPI as the Engineer for the West End Bridge Project.

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Motion to approve the following settlement agreement

For an Article 7 tax certiorari proceeding, at the indicated revised assessment amount, and to authorize the Town's attorney to execute such settlement agreement accordingly.

Resolution 106 – 2025

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

The motion was

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

Resolved that the Town Board to authorize the Town's attorney to execute such settlement agreement.

Hamlet Committee

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that \$1,077.08 was the 2025 Flea Market Revenue, and asked for a motion to earmark the \$1,077.08 for Hamlet Park from Flea proceeds.

Resolution 107– 2025

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

The motion was

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

Resolved that the Town Board approves to earmark the \$1,077.08 for Hamlet Park from Flea proceeds.

Hamlet Park Funds Available as of June 2025

Preliminary Bandshell Budget

Resolution 108 – 2025

On a motion of Councilmember Feld, seconded by Supervisor Dvorchak

The motion was

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

Resolved that the Town Board approves the Preliminary Bandshell Budget.

General discussion on the Hamlet Park.

HRBT Foundation Grant Proposal

Bandshell request for \$20,000

Resolution 109 – 2025

On a motion of Councilmember Feld, seconded by Supervisor Dvorchak

The motion was

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

Resolved that the Town Board approves the request for HRBT Foundation Grant Proposal.

Motion to Accept Grant from Rheinstrom Hill Community Foundation in the amount for \$80,000 for the construction of a permanent bandstand.

Resolution 110 – 2025

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

The motion was

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

Resolved that the Town Board approves to Accept Grant from Rheinstrom Hill Community Foundation in the amount for \$80,000.

General discussion on bandshell design and overall project.

Roe Jan Park

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that we had 7.5 inches of rain in May. It is a problem because we lost revenue. The mowing was canceled because of excess rain; Park will be mowed after 8/15.

Supervisor Dvorchak thanks Lyn Main and Berkshire Dairy LLC for being understanding and an important partner in funding the park.

HRBT Foundation Grant Proposal

New Dog Park Proposal

Motion to approve grant submission for \$65,000

Resolution 111 – 2025

On a motion of Supervisor Dvorchak seconded by Councilmember Feld,
General discussion on the RJPark and Hamlet Park and the RJPark Steering Committee.

The motion was

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

Resolved that the Town Board approves grant submission for \$65,000.

Adjournment

With no further business before the Town Board, on the motion of Councilmember Feld, seconded by Councilmember Virello,

Voted Ayes 5 Dvorchak, Virello, Feld, Tiger, Carano Nordenstrom, the meeting was adjourned at 8:23 pm.

Robina Ward, Town Clerk