



**TOWN OF HILLSDALE  
PUBLIC HEARING  
April 15, 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 Public Hearing 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 April 15, 2025, at 6:50 pm.

Board members present:

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

**PRESENT VIA ZOOM:** Councilmember Tom Carty

**ALSO PRESENT:**  
Robina Ward Town Clerk  
Emily Stalker Deputy Town Clerk  
Richard Briggs Highway Superintendent  
Ken Dow Town Attorney

**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 6:50 pm.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON LOCAL LAW 2025-2**

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that the law was to extend a real property tax exemption to emergency personnel serving municipalities adjacent to Hillsdale.

Nico Hernandez, Hillsdale Volunteer Firefighter, stated that the Fire Company needs new members, and he thought that the revised law was a good idea.

**Adjournment**

With no further business before the Town Board at 6:55 pm

On a motion of Councilmember Feld, seconded by Councilmember Carano Nordenstrom

The motion was

PUBLIC HEARING  
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ADOPTED      Ayes 5              Dvorchak, Virello, Carty, Feld, Carano Nordenstrom  
The Public Hearing was adjourned.

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Robina Ward, Town Clerk



**TOWN OF HILLSDALE  
TOWN BOARD MEETING  
April 15, 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 April 15, 2025, at 7:00 pm.

Board members present:

**PRESENT:** Supervisor Mike Dvorchak  
Councilmember Joanna Virello  
Councilmember Irwin Feld  
Councilmember Jamie Carano Nordenstrom  
**PRESENT VIA ZOOM:** Councilmember Tom Carty

**ALSO PRESENT:** Robina Ward Town Clerk  
Emily Stalker Deputy Town Clerk  
Richard Briggs Highway Superintendent  
Ken Dow Town Attorney

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Members of the public.

**TRADITIONAL VIDEOCONFERENCING NOTICE:**

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Supervisor Dvorchak called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance and asked for an a brief moment of silence for the victims of the plane crash and the first responders.

**Public Comment**

No Public Comments.

**Approval of Minutes**

March 18, 2025, Town Board Meeting

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

Councilmember Carano Nordenstrom stated that the vote on the Gift Committee was not audible. Town Clerk Ward stated that it was very clear on the recording that she took and on the Zoom meeting video both audio and visual.

The motion was

ADOPTED Ayes 4 Dvorchak, Virello, Carty, Feld

Abstain 1 Carano Nordenstrom

The Town Board approves the March 18, 2025, Special Town Board Meeting Minutes, Public Hearing Minutes and Town Board Minutes.

**Correspondence**

Ackerman, Blind Driveway 3/18/25  
Taghkanic Creek Old Road Society 3/18/25 – Pro Loose Gravel Road  
Taghkanic Creek Old Road Society 3/18/25 – Opposition to Paving  
Hindes, Kevin 3/21/25 – Public THANK YOU to Highway Department  
Levin, K 3/24/25, Smart Meters and Disappearance of Wildlife  
Doucette, C. 4/7/25. Radiation  
Davidsen, A. 4/9/25 Creating a More Civil Discourse  
Doucette/Levin 4/10/25 New Lebanon Radiation Meeting  
Davidsen, A. 4/11/25 Where are Hillsdale Trails?  
Davidsen, A. 4/11/25 Road Stream Crossing Management Plan  
Davidsen, A. 4/11/25 Notes on March 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting  
Stevens, G. 4/11/25 CAC notes on paving  
Taghkanic Creek Old Road Society 4/14/25 – Opposition to Paving  
Taghkanic Creek Old Road Society 4/14/25 – Inquiry re gift committee  
Ward, 4/14/2025, response to TCORS

**Supervisor’s Report**

**March Financial Report**

Supervisor Dvorchak reported that Hillsdale remains in strong financial position.

**Abstract Disbursements for March 2025:**

General Account, 63-95	\$35,182.68
Highway Fund, 50-60	\$64,429.28
Sewer Fund, 8-9	\$14,008.09
Park Fund, 0-1	\$ 281.07

Abstracts 3/17/2025 and 3/28/2025 were reviewed by Town Board members, Dvorchak, Feld, Carty, Virello, Carano Nordenstrom and Highway Superintendent Briggs, with approvals from Dvorchak, Feld, Carty, Virello and Highway Superintendent Briggs.

**County Report**

Supervisor Dvorchak reported that the County Board of Supervisors passed both the resolution in support of our county libraries and for the continuation of Medicaid by a unanimous vote.

**Budget Amendment 2025-4**

No budget amendment for April.

**Supervisor Audit 2024**

**Resolution 56- 2025**

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

The motion was

ADOPTED	Ayes 5	Dvorchak, Virello, Carty, Feld
	Abstain	Carano Nordenstrom

The Town Board approves the 2024 audit of the Supervisors’ financial records.

**Town Clerk Report**

Town Clerk Ward stated that the Clerk's office was now selling Hunting and Fishing Licenses.

**Sewer District Report**

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that the Sewer District was awarded two CREST grants, one through Barret and one through Hinchy for a total of \$250,000. The agreement for the Barret grant received today means we can start requesting reimbursement that will take approximately 6 weeks.

The fabrics at the Sewer Plant need to be replaced on the directive of the DEC as well as the control panel at a cost of approximately \$90,000 plus the replacement nozzles which will cost about \$10,000. It is perfectly legal for a Towns general fund to lend to the Sewer District as long as its paid back within one year.

**Resolution Regarding Funding**

**Resolution 57- 2025**

To authorize the use of town funds from the general fund to pay for items to be reimbursed by the Sewer funds from the NYS CREST grants.

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

The motion was

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

The Town Board approves the temporary transfer of funds from the General Fund to the Sewer Fund that will be reimbursed by the CREST grants.

**Grant Disbursement Agreement GDA #27508 Barret Contract**

**Resolution 58- 2025**

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

The motion was

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

The Town Board approves Supervisor Dvorchak and Town Clerk Ward to execute the disposition agreement on behalf of the Hillsdale Sewer District #1, pending Attorney sign off, an opinion letter.

**Highway Superintendent's Report**

Highway Superintendent Briggs submitted his monthly report.

Superintendent Briggs reported that there was increased traffic on Collins Street, Mitchell Street and Old Town Road due to the closure of Route 23 to replace a culvert.

Discussion on Speed Signs.

**Salt Shed match Reserve Account**

To establish a specific Capital Reserve Fund reserve account to be known as Town of Hillsdale Salt Shed Reserve Fund

**Resolution 59 - 2025**

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

The motion was

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

The Town Board approves the establishment of the Town of Hillsdale Salt Shed Reserve Fund.

Attorney Dow stated that the creation of the reserve account was subject to a permissive referendum and public notice.

**Local Law: 2025-2 Local Law to extend a real property tax exemption to emergency personnel serving municipalities adjacent to Hillsdale.**

**Resolution 60 - 2025**

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

The motion was

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

The Town Board approves the local law 2025-2 to extend real property tax exemption to emergency personnel serving municipalities adjacent to Hillsdale.

Attorney Dow called for a roll call:

Councilmember Carty	Aye
Councilmember Carano Nordenstrom	Aye
Supervisor Dvorchak	Aye
Councilmember Feld	Aye
Councilmember Virello	Aye

**Infrastructure**

**Light Poles**

Councilmember Feld reported that he is expecting an invoice for the replacement of 3 light poles and a repairman to look at the pole that remains lit all day. Supervisor Dvorchak stated that the insurance has paid for the damaged poles. We are waiting on the DOT for approval to relocate the light poles.

**Memorial Day Parade**

The Town of Hillsdale has no objection and supports our local VFW's efforts in producing the annual Roe Jan Memorial Day Parade occurring in the Hamlet of Hillsdale on Monday, May 26, 2025, starting at noon and lasting for approximately 90 minutes. This is for the DOT application.

**Resolution 61 - 2025**

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

The motion was

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

The Town Board approves supporting the local VFW Memorial Day parade in Hillsdale.

Supervisor Dvorchak reported that we needed new flags and new bunting to be purchased from Celebrations Budget.

**Hamlet Committee**

Approval of \$750 for Shakespeare in the Hamlet Park expenses from A80204-Planning Contractual Hamlet Committee, current balance \$750.

**Resolution 62- 2025**

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

The motion was

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

The Town Board approves the expenditure of \$750, from the Hamlet Park fund, for the Rooted Voyagers performance of Midsummer Night's Dream at Hamlet Park.

**Roe Jan Park**

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that it is time to renew the agreement with the Copake Hillsdale Farmers Market (CHFM Inc) for 2025, 28 weeks with the new rate at \$1,300.00.

**Resolution 64- 2025**

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

The motion was

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

The Town Board approves the renewal of the agreement with the Copake Hillsdale Farmers Market for 2025, 28 weeks with the new rate at \$1,300.00.

### **Policy**

#### **Credit Card Policy**

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that this policy, suggested by the town accountant, is more tightly controlled with more set procedures. It is more about the abstract procedures which are more detailed and used by other towns.

#### **Resolution 65- 2025**

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

The motion was

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

The Town Board approves the revised credit card policy.

### **Appointments**

#### **Reappointment of Town Assessor**

#### **Resolution 66-2025**

Reappointment of Town Assessor Cheryl Kaszluga. Term starts 10/1/2025 and ending 9/30/2031. This would be pursuant to section 310 of Real Property Tax Law.

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

The motion was

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

The Town Board approves the reappointment of Cheryl Kaszluga for the term starting 10/1/2025 and ending 9/30/2031.

#### **Planning Board Member – Michael Toth**

#### **Resolution 67- 2025**

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

The motion was

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

The Town Board approves the appointment of Michael Toth to the Planning Board for the term ending 2029.

#### **Planning Board Secretary – Jim Zarroli**

#### **Resolution 68- 2025**

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

The motion was

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

The Town Board approves the appointment of Jim Zarroli as the Planning Board Secretary.

#### **Board of Assessment Review Member – Jim Zarroli**

#### **Resolution 69 - 2025**

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

The motion was

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

The Town Board approves the appointment of Jim Zarroli as a member of the Board of Assessment Review for the term ending December 2025.

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

A motion to allow a public comment period.

On a motion of Councilmember Carano Nordenstrom , seconded by Supervisor Dvorchak.

Discussion about the length of time for public comment.

The motion was

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

The Town Board approves a public comment period of 3 minutes.

**Adjournment**

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

Voted            Ayes 5                    Dvorchak, Virello, Carty, Feld, Carano Nordenstrom the meeting was adjourned at 8.05 pm.

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Robina Ward, Town Clerk