



**TOWN OF HILLSDALE
SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING
March 18, 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 March 18, 2025, at 6:15 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

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 6:15 pm.

Public Comment

50 Minutes, 3 minutes per speaker

Members of the public made statements for and against the paving and chip sealing of Texas Hill Road and Appletree Lane.

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that he thought that the Special Meeting was very respectful of our neighbors and a really good conversation.

Adjournment

With no further business before the Town Board, on the motion of Councilmember, seconded by and a unanimous vote the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm.



**TOWN OF HILLSDALE
PUBLIC HEARING
March 18, 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 March 18, 2025, at 6:55 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 6:55 pm.

PUBLIC HEARING ON LOCAL LAW 2025-1

Change of Grievance Day to June 2, 2025.

No public comments.

Adjournment

With no further business before the Town Board at 7:00 pm.

Robina Ward, Town Clerk



**TOWN OF HILLSDALE
TOWN BOARD MEETING
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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 March 18, 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
	Lauren Letellier	Town Historian

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

Non-Chip Seal Comments (10 minutes, 3 minutes per speaker).

Town Historian Letellier stated that the Town of Hillsdale will be hosting the annual Memorial Day parade this year. Members of the Town Board met the head of the VFW and discussed expanding the parade to include more of the community. Historian Letellier stated that this year is the 250th anniversary of the Henry Knox trail going through north Hillsdale. The parade route has been rerouted to give people better viewing options. The Historians can be contacted on HillsdaleHistorian@wordpress.com for more information.

Approval of Minutes

February 11, 2025, Town Board Meeting

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

The motion was

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

The Town Board approves the February 11, 2025, Town Board Meeting Minutes.

Correspondence

Chambers, James – compliment to Highway Dept.

Hindes, Kevin – 2/16/25 Chip Seal Support

Levin, K 2/28/25 – Smart Meters

Davidson, Amy – Texas Hill Road Concerns

 Email – 2/28/2025

 Photos of Negative Impact of Boom Mow

 Follow-Up Thank you 3/13/25

 Amended 284 2022 Agreement

 2022 284 Agreement

 Letter to Town Board Opposing Paving

Johnson, Vanessa and Samuel 3/3/25 – Support for Dirt Road, Texas Hill

Solovay, Paul and Susan 3/4/25 – Support for Dirt Road, Texas Hill

Schrank, B. – 3/5/25 – Support for Dirt Road, Texas Hill

Cohen, P 3/5/25 – Support for Dirt Road, Texas Hill

Flamenbaum, M. 3/5/25 Support for Dirt Road, Texas Hill

Harvey, Brett, Opposition to Paving 3/9/25

Palio-Johnson, L. 3/9/25 – Opposition to Paving

Kevin Close – 3/11/25 – Support for Chip Sealing

Hanselman, Carol 3/11/25 – Support for Chip Sealing

Miller, James 3/11/25 – Support for Chip Sealing

Fleischman, Stuart 3/11/25 – Support for Chip Sealing

Sobel, Elliot 3/11/25 – Support for Chip Sealing

Hulett-Shepherd 3/13/25 – Support for Dirt Road

Sheedy, C. , Barry, M. 3/14/25 – Opposition to Paving

Alexander, L. 3/14 – Support for Chip Seal

Tregor, L 3/14/25 – Support for Chip Seal

Scutt, Dell 3/14/25 – Support for Chip Seal

Hanselman, J./Fire Co. 3/14/25 – Support for Chip Seal

Cottini, J./Fire Commissioners 3/14/25 – Support for Chip Seal

Shawshucks, 3/14/25 – Support for Dirt Road

Johnson, V., Potrzeba, J. 3/15/25 Opposition to Paving

Kress, M. 3/15/25 Opposition to Paving

Supervisor's Report

February Financial Report

Abstract Disbursements for February 2025:

General Account 444,348.87

Highway Fund 84,831.30

Sewer Fund 961.51
Park Fund 755.67

Abstracts 2/3/2025 and 2/18/2025 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.

Discussion on ChargePoint increase of revenue and reporting.

County Report

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that he had been working with Michael Chameides from Hudson on a county resolution for continuing Federal support for Medicaid and services for kids with disabilities. About 31.7% of residents in Columbia County get their medical care through Medicaid, 41.6% of children get their health care through Medicaid. This would decimate Columbia Memorial Hospital and the county. Supervisor Dvorchak suggested that individuals should call their government officials and make noise.

Budget Amendment 2025-3

Additional hours for the Deputy Town Clerk for the FOIL request and compliance training.

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 budget amendment 2025-3.

Town Clerk Report

Town Clerk Ward read a response to the misinformation being spread on Facebook and other places.

We can only produce the records and documents that we have in our files and any documents and records we request from other departments.

With reference to the FOIL, we received in January we compiled communication to and from the Town Supervisors office, Town Board members and the Highway Superintendent, a total of 989 pages which we digitized. All other records and documents are on the town website, agendas, minutes, resolution, laws, monthly financials, yearly budgets, highway reports and 284's.

There is no grey area, no one is concealing documents.

The towns' financial records are given to the NYS comptrollers office in a report every year.

There have been no issues. Our accounting is accurate, all deposits and all expenditures are listed. Nothing is hidden

We continue to be extremely busy and are just starting to train to be able to issue Hunting and Fishing Licenses.

Local Law: 2025-1 Changing Date of Grievance Day

Resolution 37- 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 2025-1 to move grievance day.

Fire fighter local Law 2025-2

Supervisor Dvorchak proposed a Public Hearing at 6:55 PM April 15 PM.

Attorney Dow stated that the wording should be, a local law to extend real property tax exemptions to emergency personnel serving municipalities adjacent to Hillsdale. This will extend the provisions of Hillsdale section 210-8 to volunteer firefighters and EMT's who live in Hillsdale but are members of a company in an adjacent town. This complies with the State statute.

Resolution 38- 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 having a Public Hearing at 6:55 PM April 15 PM.

Support of the Roe Jan Library

Resolution 39-2025

To support the Roe Jan Library and continued Federal and State library funding.

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

The motion was

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

The Town Board approves to support the Roe Jan Library and continued Federal and State funding.

Sewer District Report

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that the Sewer District is going through some challenges. We will rehabilitate the system with new filters, then retest and go through a re-evaluation of what needs to happen along with the DEC.

EFC Wastewater Infrastructure Engineering Planning Grant – Due April 11.

George Schmitt from CPL is working on it.

Resolution 40- 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 supervisor to apply for the EFC Wastewater Infrastructure Engineering Planning Grant.

Josh Riley - Grant

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that the request is due March 30, 2025.

Resolution 41- 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 supervisor applying for the Josh Riley Grant.

Replacement of Fabrics quotes

Precision - \$12,000.00

Earthworks- \$11,050.00

Resolution 42- 2025

On a motion of Councilmember Feld, seconded by Supervisor Dvorchak, to accept the lower bid from Earthworks, \$11,050.00.

The motion was

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

The Town Board approves the bid for the replacement of fabrics from Earthworks, \$11,050.00.

Replacement of Control Panel quotes

Self-Made - \$10,000.00

Precision - \$1,200.00

Resolution 43- 2025

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

General discussion.

The motion was

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

The Town Board approves the bid for replacement of the control panel from Precision in the amount of \$1,200.00.

Letter to Governor Hochul Supporting SWAP Program

On March 4, 2025 Supervisor Dvorchak participated in lobby day in Albany, specifically for the SWAP program. It would be similar to the CHIPS program with a steady flow of money specifically for ailing Sewer Districts.

Resolution 44- 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 supervisor and town board members sending a letter in support of the SWAP program.

Infrastructure

West End Bridge

Supervisor Dvorchak stated it was Federal Funding but is administered through New York State and the DOT.

Resolution 45- 2025

Authorizing the implementation and funding of the costs of 100% of the costs of a transportation project, which may be eligible for federal-aid and or state-aid, or reimbursement from Bridge NY funds.

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

General discussion.

The motion was

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

The Town Board authorizes the implementation and funding of 100% of the costs of a transportation project.

NYS DOT Contract

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that the contract was for preliminary engineering and right of ways.

Resolution 46- 2025

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

Attorney Dow stated that a SEQR may not be necessary as it's a rehabilitation of an existing bridge.

General discussion on SEQR requirement.

The motion was

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

The Town Board approves the Supervisor to sign the NYS DOT contract.

ROW Cost Estimate

Figures are from the grant application.

Hamlet Park Mowing Bids

Received one bid from Brothers Contracting.

Resolution 47- 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 bid from Brothers for seasonal mowing of town parks and memorials.

Hamlet Committee

Friends of Hamlet Park and Rheinstrom Grant

Resolution 48- 2025

Supervisor Dvorchak stated it would be more appropriate for the letter should come from the town.

General discussion on grant applications.

Supervisor Dvorchak amended the motion for the letter to come directly from the town.

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

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

The Town Board approves the supervisor to write the grant letter to the Rheinstrom Foundation .

Easter Egg Hunt

Acceptance of individual gifts, less than \$100.00 from local businesses.

Resolution 49- 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 acceptance of gifts for the Easter Egg Hunt.

Hillsdale Event Indemnification Form

Resolution 50- 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 Hillsdale Event Indemnification Form.

Housing Committee request for \$475.00 for Firehouse rental.

The Housing Committee is requesting \$475.00 for a Housing Fair to be held at the Hillsdale Firehouse. There is \$750.00 in their budget.

Resolution 51- 2025

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

The motion was

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

The Town Board approves the Housing Committee request for \$475.00 to rent the Hillsdale Firehouse.

Grant Committee

Councilmember Carano Nordenstrom updated the board on the AARP grant application for moveable ADA compliant tables and chairs.

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that there was a letter for the Partners for Climate Action Funding futures. The grant is for training. Councilmember Carano Nordenstrom was put forward by the Climate Smart and Clean Energy committee.

Resolution 52- 2025

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

The motion was

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

The Town Board approves Councilmember Carano Nordenstrom to attend training.

State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR)

Supervisor Dvorchak began reading through the questions.

Attorney Dow stated that the type 2 SEQR is typically not done for maintenance or repairs or replacement in kind. Councilmember Carano Nordenstrom questioned the requirement for a DEC permit, the board continued with the review.

The town board answered all 20 questions, wetlands were added to question #4. Objections were noted.

Resolution 53- 2025

The motion is to approve the short State Environmental Form

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

The motion was

ADOPTED Ayes 4 Dvorchak, Virello, Carty, Feld

 Nays 1 Carano Nordenstrom

The Town Board approves the short State Environmental Form.

Attorney Dow introduced parts two and three, assessment and determination. He stated that there were 11 questions, and each question has an answer of no or small impact may occur or moderate to large impact may occur and that the majority of the board must agree on the answers to the questions.

At the end of part two, he addressed part three about the impact of planned work. There were no answers in the moderate to large category, but there were a couple of answers that would need explanation about no or small impact.

General discussion. SEQR was completed and signed.

Highway Superintendent's Report

Highway Superintendent Briggs submitted his monthly report.

Superintendent Briggs read his comments to the board. There are no dirt roads in Hillsdale, over the last two decades dirt roads have been replaced by gravel roads, either loose gravel, sealed gravel or asphalt gravel.

Chip sealing is paid for by New York State 100% and provides long-term savings. No other projects such as culverts provide these long-term savings and other grants are available.

I have provided several ecological studies about the hazards of dirt or loose gravel roads to both the public and then to the CSC but have not received any comments from them.

I disagree strongly with the councilperson that stated it was not about public safety. Every dollar spent on road maintenance should be an investment not an expense. The decision that lies before this Board is do we continue to needlessly spend taxpayer dollars buying gravel or do we seal the gravel into the ground?

It is as simple as that.

284 2025 Agreement

Resolution 54- 2025

The motion is to approve the 284 2025 agreement.

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

Councilmember Carano Nordenstrom asked for a counter motion.

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that there was no such thing. You can only amend a motion, there is a motion on the floor.

Councilmember Carano Nordenstrom spoke for 3 minutes.

Members of the public shouted at the Town Supervisor and the members of the Town Board.

The motion was

ADOPTED	Ayes 4	Dvorchak, Virello, Carty, Feld
	Nays 1	Carano Nordenstrom

The Town Board approves the 284 2025 agreement.

Gift Law

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that there is a legal way to accept a gift to the Town. He proposed to form a Gift Committee comprised of himself, the Highway Superintendent Richard Briggs and the Town Clerk Robina Ward.

Resolution 55- 2025

The motion is to form a Gift Committee.

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

Councilmember Carano Nordenstrom continued with her comments accusing the Highway Department of inaccurate financial numbers.

Highway Superintendent Briggs requested time to respond, he left the building.

The motion was

ADOPTED	Ayes 4	Dvorchak, Virello, Carty, Feld
	Nays 1	Carano Nordenstrom

The Town Board approves the creation of the Gift Committee.

Discussion from Councilmember Carano Nordenstrom about a grant request that has not been signed.

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that he had responded in an email that the address on the contract was wrong.

Highway Superintendent Briggs returned and made a statement. He has worked on numbers for 20 years, his numbers are turned over to the town every month and to the comptroller's office. Councilmember Carano Nordenstrom requested Highway Fund Ledgers. Superintendent Briggs and Supervisor Dvorchak stated that they do not exist.

Supervisor Dvorchak made a statement about the finances of the town. We are essentially debt free, there is one payment on a truck, we have a million dollars surplus. There has not been a tax increase in almost a decade. The Highway Department is 80% of our budget. It is because of the Highway Superintendent and his strategic use of the State funds for the long-term savings. That is the only way this happened.

Any other Business that may come before the Town.

Adjournment

With no further business before the Town Board, on the motion of Supervisor Dvorchak, seconded by Councilmember Feld and a majority vote the meeting was adjourned at 9:33 pm.

Robina Ward, Town Clerk