



**TOWN OF HILLSDALE  
TOWN BOARD MEETING  
January 14, 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 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 January 14, 2025, at 7:00 pm.

Board members present:

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Supervisor	Mike Dvorchak
	Councilmember	Joanna Virello
	Councilmember	Jamie Carano Nordenstrom
<b>PRESENT VIA ZOOM:</b>	Councilmember	Tom Carty
	Councilmember	Irwin Feld
<b>ALSO PRESENT:</b>	Emily Stalker	Deputy Town Clerk
	Steve Tiger	Deputy Supervisor
	Richard Briggs	Highway Superintendent
	Ken Dow	Town Attorney

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Members of the public in person and on Zoom.

**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. Highway superintendent

**Public Comment:** Members of the public made statements against the paving of Texas Hill Road and AppleTree Lane.

**Approval of Minutes**

December 12, 2024, Regular Meeting

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

The motion was

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

The Town Board approves the December 12, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes with the addition of Nordenstrom.

December 30, 2024, Special Meeting

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

The motion was

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

The Town Board approves the December 30, 2024, Special Meeting Minutes with the addition of Nordenstrom.

### **Supervisor's Report**

#### **Supervisor Financials**

Supervisor Dvorchak reported that the town is in good financial shape. The Tax Collector is at the Town Hall between 9:00am and noon to collect taxes. The Town received a \$300,000.00 check from the Tax Collector Joe Hanselman.

#### **Abstract Disbursements for December 2024:**

General Account	28,736.55
Highway Fund	77,388.55
Sewer Fund	14,539.73
Park Fund	1,080.13

Abstracts 12/9/2024 and 12/19/2024 were reviewed by Town Board members, Dvorchak, Feld, Carty, Virello and Highway Superintendent Briggs.

#### **County Report**

Supervisor Dvorchak reported that at the State Level there is a new Short Term Rental Law which is in conjunction with the County. He will keep the board posted.

### **Budget Amendment 13-2024**

Supervisor Dvorchak reported that there were some 2024 budget over runs in Buildings Contractual. The Historians have set up a new Town Committee and are \$120.00 over budget.

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

General discussion on budget amendments and abstracts.

The motion was

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

The Town Board approves the Budget amendment 13-2024.

### **Sewer District Report**

Sewer Update – George Schmitt, Senior Project Manager, and Tim Moot, Vice President, from CPL the Town Engineers.

George Schmitt stated that he had been alerted to the current situation through the Sewer Operator, he had seen some water where he did not think it should be. Percolation tests were done, the results were not good and there was a meeting with the DEC. The town would most likely have to replace the pressure beds. Supervisor Dvorchak thanked all involved.

### **Resolution 5-2025**

To approve expenditure to create a survey of the land associated with the wastewater facility.

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

The motion was

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Dvorchak, Virello, Carty, Feld, Carano Nordenstrom  
Resolved, the Town Board approves the expenditure of \$4,000.00 to create a survey of the land associated with the wastewater facility.

### **Infrastructure**

#### **Historic Light Poles Insurance**

Councilmember Feld has been in touch with the Town's insurance Company and adjusters, Stilsing the original contractor is no longer working with the town, but they did give names of alternate contractors.

#### **Historic Light Poles going out to bid**

##### **Resolution 6-2025**

To accept the bid of \$10,000 from the Town Engineer, CPL, for services rendered to move the light poles. The fee will be taken from the unappropriated fund balance in a forthcoming budget amendment.

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

The motion was

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

Resolved the Town Board to accept the bid of \$10,000 from the Town Engineer, CPL, for services rendered to move the light poles.

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

#### **Resolution 7-2025**

To approve the 2025-284 Agreement. (NOTE: Please review the Zoom meeting link on the Town Website Hillsdaleny.com for January 14, 2025, for a full account of this discussion).

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

Attorney Ken Dow stated that for change of status on a road, there should be a SEQRA review, State Environmental Quality Review Act, to determine if there are any significant impacts.

Highway Superintendent Briggs stated that the first part of the 2025-284 is normal budgetary expense, the second part is the State Aid part, which is for projects that last 5-10 years. The Chip Sealing process is a two-step process in which an adherent is laid on the surface of the road and the gravel is placed back on top, the first layer of gravel is a ½ inch stone and the second layer is a ¼ inch stone. It is not pavement or blacktop. A dirt road, 18 feet wide by 1 mile long, loses approximately 2" of gravel per year at a cost of \$25,500.00 excluding manpower hours.

Superintendent Briggs went on to say that he had 37 years' experience working for the Highway Department, and 21-years' experience as the Highway Superintendent, an elected official. His first priority is safety.

Councilmember Feld stated that his road was dirt when he first moved here and it was upgraded to chip seal and he was very happy with the result and the safety of the road. Councilmember Virello stated that she has driven Far View on a number of occasions and that the road is chip sealed yet it still retains its rural character.

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that he thanked the Highway Superintendent and department for their diligence and hard work and recommendations on the 2025-284.

Councilmember Carano Nordenstrom stated that the 2025-284 was not published on the website until Sunday prior to the meeting. The issue was not about paving versus not paving, safety versus non safety.

Councilmember Carano Nordenstrom requested documents to be put into the public record, DEC Wetlands – Taconic Creek, Councilmember Carano Nordenstrom was providing the town with a DEC Mapper, 482 Highway Budgets, 284's, Project Budgets for Dirt Roads, Trout Unlimited.

General discussion.

The motion was amended to approve the first part of the 2025-284 and defer the second part of the 2025-284.

On a motion of supervisor Dvorchak , seconded by Councilmember Carty.

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

Resolved the Town Board to accept the first part of the 2025-284 and defer the second part of the 2025-284.

**Resolution 8-2025**

To designate the Town Board as Lead Agency to review the SEQRA for the 2025-284.

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

The motion was

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

Resolved the Town Board as Lead Agency to review the SEQRA 2025-284.

**Monthly Report**

Submitted by Highway Superintendent Briggs

**Materials**

**Resolution 9-2025**

To accept the bid from Colarusso for various materials.

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

The motion was

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

Resolved to accept the bid from Colarusso for various materials.

**Resolution 10-2025**

To accept the bid from Diruzzo for tree services.

On a motion of Councilmember Carty , seconded Councilmember Feld.

The motion was

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

Resolved accepting the bid from Diruzzo for tree service.

**Resolution 11-2025**

To accept the bid from Colarusso and Segalla Sand and Gravel for sand.

On a motion of Councilmember Virello , seconded Councilmember Carty.

The motion was

ADOPTED      Ayes 5              Dvorchak, Virello, Carty, Feld, Carano Nordenstrom  
Resolved accepting the bid from Colarusso and Segalla Sand and Gravel for sand.

**Resolution 12-2025**

To accept the bid from Colarusso, \$184,780.00 for the paving of Mitchell Street.

On a motion of Councilmember Feld , seconded Councilmember Virello.

The motion was

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

Resolved accepting the bid from Colarusso, \$184,780.00 for the paving of Mitchell Street.

**Resolution 13-2025**

To accept the bid from Trailers LLC for \$16,307.00 the trailer.

On a motion of Councilmember Virello , seconded Councilmember Feld.

The motion was

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

Resolved accepting the bid from Trailers LLC for \$16,307.00 for the trailer.

Scenic Sips Application

**Resolution 14-2025**

To approve the closing of White Hill Lane for the event Scenic Sips pending Zoning Board approval, and insurance submission in the amount of \$1,000,000 with the Town of Hillsdale named as an additional insured party and execution of an indemnification and hold harmless agreement to be provided to the Town.

General discussion and Attorney input.

On a motion of Councilmember Carty , seconded Councilmember Virello.

The motion was

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

Resolved to approve the closing of White Hill Lane for the event Scenic Sips pending Zoning Board approval, insurance submission in the amount of \$1,000,000 with the Town of Hillsdale named as an additional insured party and execution of an indemnification and hold harmless agreement to be provided to the Town.

**Town Clerk Report**

Deputy Clerk Stalker reported that the new county regulations for Senior Recycle stickers is to purchase the stickers from the Town Clerks office on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

**Roe Jan Park**

Maintenance Update Councilmember Virello stated that Victor will be installing the Rheinstrom Plaque.

Migratory Bird Recommendation

**Resolution 15-2025**

To maintain the mowing schedule from 2024, the first cut before June 1 and second cut after August 15.

On a motion of Councilmember Carty , seconded Councilmember Feld.

General discussion on use of land.

The motion was

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

Resolved to maintain the mowing schedule from 2024, first cut before June 1,2025 and second cut after August 15, 2025.

Vinyl Curtain Harvest Barn

**Resolution 16-2025**

To permit, Councilmember Virello to talk to State Parks about the use of a Vinyl curtain at the Harvest Barn.

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

General discussion.

The motion was

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Dvorchak, Virello, Carty, Feld, Carano Nordenstrom  
Resolved to permit Joanna Virello to talk to State Parks about the use of a Vinyl curtain at the Harvest Barn.

### **Hamlet Park**

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that the Survey is now closed, the most popular items were the basketball court and pickleball court. The Hamlet Committee would like to board to consider resurfacing the basketball court, removing the lighting and an unused backboard and stand.

### **Resolution 17-2025**

To create an RFP for the rehabilitation of the basketball court.

On a motion of Councilmember Virello , seconded Supervisor Dvorchak.

The motion was

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Dvorchak, Virello, Carty, Feld, Carano Nordenstrom  
Resolved To create an RFP for the rehabilitation of the basketball court.

### **Grants**

Councilmember Carano Nordenstrom updated the board on the NYSERDA Clean Energy Designation Grant and the AARP Age Friendly Community Grant.

The Columbia Land Conservancy Countywide Conservation Open Space Plan has its first Public Meeting on January 23rd via Zoom from 6:00 pm-7:30pm.

### **Conservation Advisory Council**

#### **Resolution 18-2025**

To co-sponsor Taghkanic Talks: 2025 - The Year of the Forest

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

The motion was

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Dvorchak, Virello, Carty, Feld, Carano Nordenstrom  
Resolved to co-sponsor Taghkanic Talks: 2025 - The Year of the Forest

### **Climate Smart and Clean Energy Task Force**

Energy Study at Town Hall

#### **Resolution 19-2025**

To purchase the following for Town Hall Silver Track Actions:

Honeywell Pro Smart Wi-Fi Programmable Thermostat \$198.77,

Toilet Tank Bank Conserving Insert - (3) Toilets \$24.00,

Pressure Compensated Wide Stream Spray Faucet Aerators - \$12.99 x 5 For a total of \$287.72,

Herrington Fuels Installation of Thermostat \$80.00 Common Wire Maker (2-to-3 Wire System),

\$140 Service = GRAND TOTAL \$507.72

On a motion of Councilmember Feld , seconded Councilmember Virello.

The motion was

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Dvorchak, Virello, Carty, Feld, Carano Nordenstrom  
Resolved to purchase the items listed for Town Hall Silver Track Actions.

#### **Resolution 20-2025**

To co- Sponsor an Affordable Energy Event in Valatie, February 1 – 10:00 am -12 Noon

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

The motion was

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Dvorchak, Virello, Carty, Feld, Carano Nordenstrom  
Resolved to co- Sponsor an Affordable Energy Event in Valatie, February 1 – 10:00 am -12 Noon

**Resolution 21-2025**

An Affordable Energy Event at the Roe Jan Park on June 14, 2025

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

The motion was

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Dvorchak, Virello, Carty, Feld, Carano Nordenstrom  
Resolved have an Affordable Energy Event at the Roe Jan Park on June 14, 2025.

**Budget Amendment 2025-01**

On a motion of Councilmember Feld , seconded Supervisor Dvorchak.

The motion was

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Dvorchak, Virello, Carty, Feld, Carano Nordenstrom  
Resolved to approve the Budget amendment 2025-01.

Adjournment to Executive Session in reference to a possible real property transaction

On a motion of Councilmember Virello , seconded Councilmember Carty.

The motion was

APPROVED Ayes 5 Dvorchak, Virello, Carty, Feld, Carano Nordenstrom  
Resolved to move into Executive Session at 9.05 pm.

Return to the regular town board meeting at 9:22 pm.

**Resolution 22-2025**

To approve an appraisal of a portion of the property next to the Town Hall up to \$2,000.00.

On a motion of Councilmember Virello , seconded Councilmember Feld.

The motion was

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

Resolved to have a portion of the property at 2605 State route 23 appraised.

**Adjournment**

With no further business before the Town Board on a motion of Councilmember Feld, seconded by Supervisor Dvorchak, the meeting was adjourned at 9:24pm, carried unanimously.

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Emily Stalker, Town Clerk

