



TOWN OF HILLSDALE
Town Board Meeting – July 9, 2024
Minutes

NOTE: After a public hearing on April 25 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 July 9, 2024, at 7:00 pm.

Board members present:

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

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Meg Wormley, Gretchen Stevens, Dan Levy, Kathryn Levine, Dorothy Knovak, and other 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.

Approval of Minutes

June 11, Regular Meeting

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

The motion was

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

Resolved the Town Board approves the June 11, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes.

Public Comment

John Piwowarski commented on the signage at the Roe Jan Park. Councilmember Virello showed him photographs of the new signs at the park.

Dorothy Knovak spoke about Climate Smart agenda and that it was a much bigger topic. She had concerns about “electrifying everything” and stated that the Board is the last defense.

Correspondence

Steve Bluestone, Waste Containers
Christine Panos, State Bill S7834
Kathryn Levin, Smart Meters
Kathryn Levin, June 26 5G Australian Article

Supervisor’s Report

County Report – Supervisor Dvorchak reported that there will be a special Supervisor meeting on Friday, July 12 at 9:30 AM with Granicus, the compliance firm that the county engaged, since the State has passed legislation on Short-term rentals. He will keep the Board posted and report more at the August meeting. Most likely a 4% tax on short-term rentals will take affect county-wide on January 1, 2025. The tax would be collected by the county, payment for Granicus services would be deducted and the balance would be shared with the towns.

Supervisor Report and Financials

Supervisor Dvorchak reported that Hillsdale remains in strong financial shape and that the procedures suggested in the 2023 Audit have begun to be implemented.

Abstract Disbursements for June 2024:

General Account	24,396.35
Highway Fund	67,882.83
Sewer Fund	5,611.23
Park Fund	5,572.40

Budget Adjustment #7 - 2024

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

The motion was

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

Resolved the Town Board approves the budget amendment in the sum of \$9.450.00.

Sewer District Report

SAM Grant Status

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that the \$125,000 SAM Grant from Didi Barrett’s office is with the New York State Ways and Means Committee, and we hope to have confirmation in the next few months, so we can begin to spend the grant money.

CREST Grant

Supervisor Dvorchak went on to report Senator Michelle Hinchey’s office has committed \$125,000 for our waste management system. The Grant is the same as a SAM Grant but with a new name “CREST.” (Community Resiliency, Economic Sustainability, and Technology Program) The Supervisor will begin discussions with Les Coon from H2O Innovation and the Sewer Committee about the best initiatives for

submission and will hopefully have a proposal for the August meeting. Supervisor Dvorchak thank both Assemblymember Barrett and Senator Hinchey for understanding and recognizing the unique challenges of maintaining a small wastewater system.

Connection Sewer Permit/Fee

Supervisor Dvorchak informed the Board that the Sewer Committee will be discussing proposing a fee for connection to the Sewer, since the connection involves the time of our Sewer Operator – and possibly Town Engineer. The Committee will also discuss standardizing the type of landfill required for any new conduits.

Highway Superintendent's Report

Highway Superintendent had submitted his report for work completed in June 2024. Supervisor Dvorchak has started a CHIPS data base, Highway Superintendent will be asking the Town Clerk for the information. The CHIPS reimbursement is a direct deposit to the general account which will then be put into the Highway account. It is usually received in December.

Town Clerk Report

Town Clerk Ward stated that there was not much to report, we are still clearing boxes. Three dogs were lost, and found, and reunited with their owners. Electric work needs to be completed at some point at the Town Hall.

Flea Market

Resolution 63-2024

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

The motion was

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

Resolved the Town Board approves to earmark funds raised at the 2024 Flea Market for Hamlet Park Improvements.

Roe Jan Ramble – Update

Supervisor Dvorchak reported that our insurance agency, in a discussion with our attorney Ken Down, stated that unless the Town was controlling the event, volunteers would not be covered under the town policy. He and Ken called the organizer of the Ramble, Tom Goldsworthy, to inform him of this. Tom is working on an alternative for coverage of volunteers in Hillsdale. General discussion followed. The Town board will discuss outcomes at the August meeting.

Infrastructure

Town Hall Repairs

Supervisor Dvorchak reported that we are in the final stage of the Town Hall Project. The remaining item is the installation of Fire Alarms and CO2 Alarms throughout the town hall. Once completed, CPL will authorize final payment.

West Entrance Sign Replacement

Councilperson Irwin Feld said that the West Entrance sign is complete, and the Highway Department will install. Linda Brenner will work on the plants.

Historic Lights

Supervisor Dvorchak presented a bid from Stilsing Electric for the public record. He will bring this to the Infrastructure Committee for further discussion. Supervisor Dvorchak and the Town Clerk walked the sidewalk with Stilsing, it is not possible to run a new wire along the north side of the sidewalk. We will look for other alternatives.

Salt Shed

Supervisor Dvorchak presented an estimate of \$525,000 plus engineering fees for the public record. This has been an agenda item for many years and this price is lower than previously thought. We should look for grant opportunities to augment the reserve fund. It is an environmental issue.

Town of Hillsdale Community Solar Campaign

ProjectEconomics, Inc. DBA PowerMarket (Servicer) and LSE Perseus, LLC/Lodestar Energy (Provider) Net Crediting Disclosure and Subscriber Agreement

Town of Hillsdale and ProjectEconomics, Inc. DBA PowerMarket (Servicer) Memorandum of Understanding.

Resolution 64-2024

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

The motion was

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

Resolved the Town Board approves the support of the Town of Hillsdale Community Solar Campaign with servicer ProjectEconomics, Inc. DBA PowerMarket.

AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities

Welcome Letter

Enrollment Certificate

Councilmember Carano stated that it would give us better standing in applying for grants.

Environmental Protection Fund Smart Growth Grant Program

Resolution 65-2024

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

The motion was

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

Resolved the Town Board supports the application to the Environmental Protection Fund Smart Growth Planning and Zoning Grant Program.

GreenNY Supplement to our Procurement Local Law for GreenNY Green Purchasing Community Commitment

GreenNY Supplement to Procurement Local Law.

Resolution to Adopt GreenNY Supplement and Commit to GreenNY's EPPP.

Resolution -2024

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

Supervisor Dvorchak has some concerns, it is all about priorities, we need to get the town to where it needs to be. General discussion followed. We can revisit at a later date.

The motion was

NOT ADOPTED Ayes 1
Nays 4

Carano
Dvorchak, Carty, Feld, Virello

Roe Jan Park

Maintenance

Councilmember Virello stated that the Summer Youth program started on Monday. Steve Bluestone donated 27 wood benches to the Hilltop Barn. Three yards of sand was ordered and they need to order more.

Farmers Market is doing well, parking is an issue. The new signs will be posted at the other entrance and the new kiosk will be set up. There is a QR code at the kiosk. The old entry signs need replacement, the quote is for a wood sign, double sided, painted and includes installation.

Migratory Bird Update

The town received a report from Gretchen Stevens. Some of the birds have returned to the park, Gretchen has visited the park a few times. Supervisor Dvorchak thanked Gretchen for her time, and asked for a report in August and September to have a further discussions.

Grants

West End Bridge Grant

Supervisor Dvorchak stated he does not know what the holdup is.

Anthony Streetscape Grant

Supervisor Dvorchak informed the Board that Hillsdale did not receive the Anthony Streetscape TAP Grant. He has filled out an online form to request a postmortem with the State Grant office and will invite the entire Board and Town Clerk as well as our CPL representative. The meeting can be a one-way, information-only session with no conversation amongst Board members, on the advice of Town Attorney Dow.

Pro-Housing Grants

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that he and Councilperson Virello had a conversation with Chris Brown of the Columbia County Housing Task Force. Since Hillsdale is designated as a Pro-Housing Community, Chris said that there was a grant that could work for the sewer, but that the match was 60%. Grant was due July 15.

Supervisor Dvorchak discussed the position of committee liaison, the Town of Copake has it formalized as a nonvoting member. Chairs and the committees that have an initiative to put before the board should talk to the liaison to get it to a resolution state prior to bringing it to the board.

Adjournment

With no further business before the Town Board on a motion of Councilmember Feld, seconded by Councilmember Carty, the meeting was adjourned at 8.06 pm, carried unanimously.

