



**TOWN OF HILLSDALE**  
**Town Board Meeting – June 11, 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. **Tom Carty attended via videoconferencing.***

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 June 11, 2024, at 7:00 pm.

Board members present:

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Supervisor	Mike Dvorchak
	Councilmember	Irwin Feld
	Councilmember	Joanna Virello
	Councilmember	Jamie Carano Nordenstrom
	Councilmember	Tom Carty

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Meg Wormley, Gretchen Stevens, Kathryn Levine, Mr. Nicosia, Rene Gibson, Joyce Ferrentino 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.

He stated that it had been quite a month at Town Hall, we can see the beautiful new ceiling in the hall. Downstairs is completely transformed. I must thank 1st of all, Lee Heim, who's just been so amazing with this process.

Emily, you are a rock. You kept your sense of humor during some tense times. You should all know that in a couple of weeks Emily will have touched literally every piece of paper in every file, which will put us so far ahead of the game ready to scan and digitize the files. Thank you. My next person hates to be thanked in public. I don't even know where to begin. What you did these last couple of months organizing and preparing and you

have been working on this for quite a long time. We are delighted that there is light at the end of the tunnel. Thank you.

**Approval of Minutes**

May 9, Regular Meeting

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 May 9 Regular Meeting Minutes.

**Public Comment**

Kathryn Levine made a statement about the Town of Pittsfield and an issue with 5G. She also stated that the Roe Jan Library had purchased a meter which would show safe and unsafe levels, people can rent it out.

Mr. Nicosia stated that he is working with the farmer at the Roe Jan Park and that he had seen 15 nests although he had not made a report to the town. Another member of the public spoke about Smart phones.

**Supervisor Report**

**Financials**

Supervisor Dvorchak presented Budget Amendment #6, a new revised format, to reduce the A1355.4 Assessor Contractual account by \$2,000.00, originally intended for the start of a Property Tax Re-evaluation, now not happening, and increasing the A1410.4 Town Clerk contractual to pay for necessary supplies incurred because of the move.

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 Budget Amendment.

**Sewer District Report**

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that the SAM grant is with the Ways and Means committee. It may take a couple of months to move through the legislature. The sewer main has now been relocated. The towns sewer SPDES permit expired last April it will be renewed. To remind the board as per the resolution from 2 years ago, Resolution 30-2023, the Sewer repayment due back to the town is due on June 15.

Supervisor Dvorchak said he was talking to other agencies about further grants for the sewer district but there was a median income requirement on some of the grant requirements which he doubted we would be able to comply with.

**Highway Superintendents Report**

Richard Briggs was in attendance, and he had emailed his monthly report.

Superintendent Briggs stated that he had revised the 284 – 2024 Agreement as the CHIPS money that was coming in is approximately \$200,000.00 more than was budgeted for 2024, although \$600.00 less than last year.

**Resolution 62-2024**

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

The motion was

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

Resolved the Town Board approves revised 284-2024 Agreement.

**Town Clerk Report**

Town Clerk Ward reported that they are still unpacking boxes, the Deputy, Emily has been working through the paperwork in preparation for digitizing. We have to thank Mike for all the heavy lifting, it would not have happened without him, thank you. We still have to fix the Zoom audio and visual to post online, we are getting there, we are more organized than before.

**Flea Market Report**

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that it was a great day in the park. The park is an underused asset of the town that needs attention. The use of the Scott Decker Road at the top of Maple Street made it much safer for traffic.

**Roe Jan Ramble Event**

**Resolution 56-2024**

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

Councilmember Carano asked if the event was covered by Town Liability Insurance, she asked who were the organizers of the event as it is not very clear.

The motion was

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

Resolved, based on Attorney Dow's recommendation, the Town Board approves the event pending the approval of the Town Insurance company.

**Age-Friendly Communities**

To seek membership in the AARP Network of Age Friendly Communities. Councilmember Carano stated It would qualify the town to apply for grants.

**Resolution 57-2024**

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

The motion was

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

Resolved that the Town Board authorizes the Supervisor to sign the letter of interest for membership in the AARP Network of Age Friendly Communities.

**CARP Adoption**

**Resolution 58-2024**

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

To adopt the Town of Hillsdale Local Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Plan.

The motion was

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

Resolved that the Town Board adopts the Town of Hillsdale Local Climate Change Adaptation and resilience plan.

**Benchmarking Report**

**Resolution 59-2024**

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

To post the Benchmarking report on the town website, Hillsdaleny.com.

The motion was

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

Resolved that the Town Board approves the posting of the Benchmarking report to the town website, Hillsdaleny.com.

**Policies**

**Resolution 60-2024**

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

To appoint Councilmember Carano as Policy Lead.

The motion was

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

Resolved that the Town Board approves the appointment of Councilmember Carano to Policy Lead.

**Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy (EPP)**

Attorney Dow stated you could not change the Towns local law but could make a resolution for an additional procurement policy.

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

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that the policy looked onerous for a small town like Hillsdale. There was general discussion. The Town needs more time to review.

The motion was tabled.

**Infrastructure**

**Town Hall Repairs**

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that we have a new front door, the generator and tanks will be moved and that we are going to paint the main hall. Town Clerk Ward stated that we will be replacing the toilet downstairs.

**West Entrance Sign**

Councilmember Feld stated that he had picked up the sign and had delivered it to Jeff Bud for the metalwork, the sign needs cleaning and will be ready soon.

**Historic Lights**

Councilmember Feld and Supervisor Dvorchak discussed the estimate received from Stilsing, the light situation will be discussed at the Infrastructure meeting later this week.

**Roe Jan Park Report**

Councilmember Virello stated that the new park rules and dog rules were put up today. The kiosk is getting new corkboard. The Hilltop barn is being power washed, and the stain has been delivered. The garage door is being installed on the Salt barn and a dumpster has been ordered as the barns will be cleaned out.

Councilmember Virello called Nancy Scans to get a new version of the Roe Jan Park sign, the frame will be repainted, sand was ordered for the Volleyball court.

#### Migratory Update

Supervisor Dvorchak introduced Gretchen Stevens as the town liaison for this issue. Gretchen stated that she had visited the park. There was general discussion in reference to the farmers' lease, the maintenance of the park and the reneating of the Bobolinks.

#### **The CSC Community Solar Campaign**

Community Solar Partner Subscriber Agreement

Community Solar Partner Subscriber Memorandum of Understanding

To support the Town of Hillsdale Community Solar Campaign with Servicer, Project Economics, Inc., DBA Power Market.

Councilmember Carano stated that the suppliers need to confirm the capacity.

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that the Town Board will take a closer look at it at the next Town board meeting.

#### **Grants**

West End Bridge and Anthony Street and Coldwater Street grant applications

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that we are waiting to hear the results of the applications.

#### NYSERDA Grant

There is no match for this grant.

#### Records Management Grant

Town Clerk Ward stated that she and Councilmember Carty had started work on this at the beginning of the year and postponed it until next year as there was a lot of fact finding and work to do.

#### Hamlet Park

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that Hamlet Park needs attention.

#### SAM Grant

This subject was already discussed.

#### Rheinstrom Hill Community Foundation Grant

Councilmember Virello stated that the Roe Jan Park had received a grant for \$50,000.00.

It will be used to repair some of the buildings and expand the Dog Run.

#### Garden Conservancy Garden Futures Grant

Councilmember Carano stated it is a very open grant, there is no match, it is a rolling grant.

#### Hudson River Valley Greenway Community Grant

Councilmember Carano stated it can be used for culvert replacement as outlined by Trout Unlimited.

#### CFA Smart Growth Community Comprehensive Planning Grant

Regarding the Comprehensive Plan, we should keep working on the application for next year.

Memorial Day Parade

It is run by VFW. A general discussion of revised routes for next year in Hillsdale.

Social Worker Proposal

Rene Gibson asked about the Safe at Home Proposal.

There was general discussion. The town needs more information.

Executive Session

On a motion of Supervisor Dvorchak, seconded by Councilmember Feld to move into Executive session at 8.24 pm to discuss an applicant for the position as a Roe Jan Park committee member.

On a motion of Councilmember Feld, seconded by Supervisor Dvorchak to move back into the regular meeting at 8.25 pm.

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

**Resolution 61-2024**

On a motion of Councilmember Carano, seconded by Supervisor Dvorchak

To appoint Christine Docktor as a Roe Jan Park committee member.

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

Resolved that the Town Board approves the appointment Christine Docktor as a Roe Jan Park committee member.

Adjournment

With no further business before the Town Board on a motion of Councilmember Feld, seconded by Councilmember Virello, the meeting was adjourned at 8.26 pm, carried unanimously.

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Robina Ward, Town Clerk

