



TOWN OF HILLSDALE
Town Board Meeting – May 9, 2024
Draft 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 May 9, 2024, at 7:00 pm.

Board members present:

PRESENT:

Supervisor	Mike Dvorchak
Councilmember	Irwin Feld
Councilmember	Joanna Virello
Councilmember	Tom Carty

ABSENT: Councilmember Jamie Carano Nordenstrom

ALSO PRESENT:

Robina Ward	Town Clerk
Emily Stalker	Deputy Town Clerk
Kenneth Dow	Town Attorney

OTHERS PRESENT: Meg Wormley, Tim Stookesberry

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

April 9, Special Meeting

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

The motion was

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

Resolved the Town Board approves the April 9 Special Meeting Minutes.

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April 9, Regular Meeting

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

The motion was

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

Resolved the Town Board approves the April 9, Regular Meeting Minutes.

April 25 Special Meeting

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

The motion was

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

Resolved the Town Board approves the April 25, Special Meeting Minutes.

Public Comment

None

Supervisor Report

County

The Granicus proposal at the County is moving forward. The Supervisors passed a resolution to ask the State if the County could levy a short-term rental tax of 4%. It is based on how much money is made by the renter. Granicus would take their fee and the balance would return to the County and then the towns. The towns can purchase further services from Granicus, an 800-response number in case of any problems, follow up letters for compliance with local laws.

Financials

Supervisor Dvorchak neglected to inform the Town Accountant that the regular meeting had been scheduled for an earlier date.

Supervisor Audit

Nothing out of order was found. There are areas that can be tightened up.

The one area we need to work on is indebtedness and to find the resolutions that created them.

Sewer District Report

Supervisor Dvorchak has been talking to the Didi Barrett office, they have awarded the town the SAM grant, \$125,000.00. It is a reimbursable grant. There is a call scheduled for tomorrow with the Ways and Means committee. The moving of the sewer line in the lower hamlet is scheduled for the first week in June 2024 and would require funds of \$14,000.00. In anticipation of receiving the grant money Attorney Dow explained that the \$14,000.00 would be an advance from the General Fund to the Sewer Fund so work can begin. When the grant money comes in it will be used to pay back the origin, the general fund.

Resolution 52-2024

To temporarily advance \$14,000.00 from the General Fund to the Sewer Fund.

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

The motion was

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

Resolved the Town Board approves to move \$14,000.00 from the unassigned General Fund to the Sewer Account.

There is one quote from J Andrew Lang/ Orenco for the replacement of the curtain textiles, a replacement cartridge back up, plus a custom commercial telemetry control panel which will indicate the type of alarm.

Highway Superintendents Report

Richard Briggs not in attendance. He sent a report.

There was a request to mow the Baptist cemetery on Craryville Road.

Attorney Dow stated that there is a state law that when public cemeteries become abandoned the town must take over the maintenance.

Resolution 53-2024

For the Highway Department to mow the Craryville Cemetery.

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

The motion was

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

Resolved, the Town Board approves the Highway Department to mow the Craryville Cemetery.

Town Clerk Report

We are boxing up all the files, May 13 the computers will be moved so we can access them remotely.

May 16 the movers arrive to move everything downstairs upstairs. The court will be closed May 17 – 25 because of toxic chemicals, no one allowed in Town Hall. We hope to be reopened on May 28.

Rental Fee for Hamlet Park

General discussion, Attorney Dow stated that we would need further discussion about type of use and guidelines, the park must always be available to the public, it should not be closed off.

Committee Policy

Supervisor Dvorchak suggested the addition of a business owner or employee to all committees.

Further discussion.

The motion is to add business owners or employees in our Committee Policy.

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

The motion was

ADOPTED	Ayes 3	Dvorchak, Feld, Carty
	Abstain 1	Virello
	Absent 1	Carano

Resolved, the Town Board approves the addition of Business owners and employees to the Committee Policy.

Roe Jan Park Report

Councilmember Virello stated that the garage door for the barn was ordered, Bill and Victor will move everything out of the Salt Barn. Victor measured the bottom of the Hilltop Barn and the lumber and materials will be ordered. Once the lumber is replaced the painters will begin and will need a deposit. It needs a decision on whether they will use stain or paint. The main kiosk is almost done.

Councilmember Virello will contact Supervisor Wolf in Copake to see if we could combine the sand purchase for the volleyball court.

Summer Youth Program.

Sold out. There is a need for Camp in Session signs. We will order them.

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Migratory Bird Issue

Berkshire Farms received the letter from the Town. Supervisor Dvorchak spoke to Mr. Main. There was general discussion about mowing and timetables and if the birds nested on the land. There will be a survey conducted by Mr. Nicosia assisted by the CAC and the nest will be marked. There is a target date of Jun 1 to complete the first mowing and a target date of May 30 to determine if the birds are nesting. A safety perimeter will be marked. Comments from a member of the public who has an issue with Dogs of leash in the park.

Community Forest

Presented by Gretchen Stevens.

There is State funding available to create a Community Forest of at least 10 acres, between \$50,000.00 and \$300,000.00 with a 10% town match. Possibly applying in 2025.

Supervisor Dvorchak responded that we have pursued grants for Hamlet Park without success and we have other initiatives , culverts, a salt shed. The ongoing maintenance cost is an issue and would be a long-term Town taxpayer expense.

Councilmember Virello suggested the back of Roe Jan Park as a possible forest.

Town Hall Repairs

Supervisor Dvorchak stated thank you all for understanding.

West Entrance Sign

Councilmember Feld delivered the sign to the metal frame fabricator.

Historic Lights

Damage was caused by mice and is now fixed. The moving of the light fixtures is still under discussion.

Maple Street

There was s meeting between the DOT, Highway Superintendent, Scott Decker and Steve Tiger. There are regulations from the DOT, questions about the owners of the land. Next step would be a drawing of the location.

Acceptance of Bids

Resolution 54-2024

To accept the Brothers bid to mow Hamlet Park, Town Hall Park, the Veterans Memorial, Cullen Park and the grass strip along Route 23.

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

The motion was

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

Resolved, to approve the Brothers bid at \$475 per mowing, to mow Hamlet Park, Town Hall Park, the Veterans Memorial, Cullen Park and the grass strip along Route 23.

Resolution 55-2024

To accept the Burntitus bid to remedy the Town Hall Park stonework, \$2,600.00.

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

The motion was

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

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Resolved, to approve Burntitus remedy the Town Hall Park.

Adjournment

With no further business before the Town Board on a motion of Councilmember Feld, seconded by Councilmember Virello, the meeting was adjourned at 8.08 pm, carried unanimously.

Robina Ward, Town Clerk

