



TOWN OF HILLSDALE
Town Board Meeting – April 9, 2024
Draft

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 April 9, 2024, at 7:00 pm.

Board members present:

| | | |
|---------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| PRESENT: | Supervisor | Mike Dvorchak |
| | Councilmember | Jamie Carano Nordenstrom |
| | Councilmember | Irwin Feld |
| | Councilmember | Joanna Virello |
| ATTENDING VIA ZOOM | Councilmember | Tom Carty |

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|----------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| ALSO PRESENT: | Robina Ward | Town Clerk |
| | Emily Stalker | Deputy Town Clerk |
| | Kenneth Dow | Town Attorney |

OTHERS PRESENT: Meg Wormley 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 7:09 pm with the Pledge of allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

March 12 Meeting

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

The motion was

| | | |
|---------|----------|-------------------------|
| ADOPTED | Ayes 3 | Dvorchak, Feld, Virello |
| | Nays 1 | Carano |
| | Absent 1 | Carty |

Resolved the Town Board approves the March 12 Minutes.

March 27 Special Meeting

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

The motion was

| | | |
|---------|-----------|-------------------------|
| ADOPTED | Ayes 3 | Dvorchak, Feld, Virello |
| | Nays 0 | |
| | Abstain 1 | Carano |
| | Absent 1 | Carty |

Resolved the Town Board approves the March 27 Minutes.

Public Comment

None

Supervisors Report

County Report

The County has received a grant for Accessory Dwelling Units which can be used for those who are income qualified, to receive up to \$125, 000.00 to build the units. Congratulations to the County Housing Task Force.

The County is in discussions with Granicus about the enforcement of Short-Term Rentals.

Supervisors Financial Report

The report was a little late this month due to it being tax season. Supervisor Dvorchak did not see anything out of the ordinary in terms of our balances at this time of year.

Sewer District Report

The office of Didi Barrett has committed \$125,000.00 for Hillsdale's infrastructure, specifically the Sewer. Supervisor Dvorchak will have more information by the Special Meeting. The Town will be seeking a Ban loan as the SAM grant is not an immediate reimbursement and can take up to 6 months for reimbursement.

Highway Superintendent Report

Not in attendance, the report is online.

Supervisor Dvorchak thanked the Highway Department for all their hard work on clearing , trees and roads over the past weekend.

Town Clerk Report

Town Clerk Ward reported that the Town had been accepted to collect Credit Card payments and that software was being created to add to the website.

We also need to purchase boxes, tape etc. for the move, about \$800.00 worth of materials.

CAC Letter

Gretchen Stevens spoke about the letter which was about doing a complete overhaul of the Comprehensive Plan, Zoning Ordinance, and other parts of the local code. The existing plan is very old, most towns revise their plans 5 – 10 years. Suggesting that the town should create an advisory board made up of various members of the current boards plus a planning consultant and an environmental lawyer. There is grant money available.

Infrastructure

Town Hall repairs the roof contractors have now completed the work and it is being reviewed by CPL, the bill has been submitted.

Mold remediation, we received estimates for movers , there are now two bids.

Further discussion on CPL and their charges for the project. Supervisor Dvorchak will circulate the Town Hall renovation plan, reviewed, and approved by the Town Board in 2023.

RESOLUTION 41-2024

To accept the bid from CTK, Trucking and Logistics, in the amount of \$4,800.00

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

The motion was

ADOPTED Ayes 3 Dvorchak, Virello, Feld,
 Nays 0
 Abstain 1 Carano
 Absent 1 Carty

Resolved the Town Board approves the bid from CTK for moving the Town Hall offices.

Mobile Office.

The town received two estimates / bids for a mobile unit. A property on the Herringtons lot, the Spa building is available, and Supervisor Dvorchak spoke with Richard Herrington, the paperwork was not completed in time for this meeting, the space was offered at \$250.00 per week, which is less than the estimates for the mobile units. The space is ADA compliant.

Resolution 42-2024

To use Herringtons space as the temporary Town Hall at a cost of \$250.00 per week

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

The motion was

ADOPTED Ayes 3 Dvorchak, Virello, Feld,
 Nays 0
 Abstain 1 Carano
 Absent 1 Carty

Resolved the Town Board approves the use of Herringtons property for temporary Town Hall offices.

Dumpster.

We received a bid from Barbado for a 10-yard dumpster for 4 – 6 weeks at a cost of \$400.00.

Resolution 43-2024

To rent the use of a dumpster supplied by Barbato LLC.

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

The motion was

ADOPTED Ayes 3 Dvorchak, Virello, Feld,
 Nays 0
 Abstain 1 Carano
 Absent 1 Carty

Resolved the Town Board approves the use of a Barbado 10-yard dumpster for 4 – 6 weeks at a cost of \$400.00.

Supplies, Boxes, Tape \$800.00 discretionary fund.

Resolution 44-2024

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

The motion was

ADOPTED Ayes 3 Dvorchak, Virello, Feld,
 Nays 0
 Abstain 1 Carano
 Absent 1 Carty

Resolved the Town Board approves the expenditure of approximately \$800.00 for moving supplies.

West End entrance sign replacement

Councilmember Feld reported that the sign is still being worked on by Nancy Scans. He also mentioned another issue which is the Street Lights and the replacement of light bulbs, and that he is not getting much response from the contractors, Stilsing. Supervisor Dvorchak will follow up.

Roe Jan Park

Signage & Maintenance.

Councilmember Virello reported that she had just received the new logo from Abigail and will update the artwork for the signs. Councilmember Virello questioned where the funds would come from to pay for the signs, the Town has an account with the sign makers and the funds will come out of the .4 RJPark account.

In reference to maintenance Councilmember Virello stated that the garage door replacement is about \$5,000.00, it is an emergency situation. The door and the wood trim around it need to be replaced. Councilmember Virello would like to order it early next week and would like it to be completed by the time the Youth Program begins in July.

The Hilltop Barn.

Councilmember Virello reported that the bottom of the Hilltop Barn is saturated with water. She met with Richard Herrington who suggested a different material to wood to stop the water saturation. She discussed the work with Bill Furner, and it was decided that he and Victor could replace the rotten wood with a new wood composite. Jam Construction would then repaint the barn.

The Kiosk Project.

Victor is working on the kiosk replacing the plexiglass, sanding and restaining. The RJP Steering Committee can then put new notices inside.

The Summer Youth Program.

Signing up is in progress. Approximately 65 spots are available with 24 applications received to date. Councilmember Virello reported that the park might need additional signage for when the program begins to keep people away from the Playground and the Hilltop Barn as the public is not allowed in those areas.

Councilmember Virello stated that she had written a letter of intent to the Rhinestrom Foundation for a grant for maintenance in the RJ Park. They will meet in May and the request was for \$50,000.00.

Resolution 45-2024

On a motion of Councilmember Virello, seconded by Supervisor Dvorchak to purchase the garage door for \$4,900.00.

Councilmember Carano did not receive information about the garage door.

General discussion about the park projects and finances. The HECDL will be vouchered for the funds.

The motion was

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|---------|-----------|--------------------------|
| ADOPTED | Ayes 3 | Dvorchak, Virello, Feld, |
| | Nays 0 | |
| | Abstain 1 | Carano |
| | Absent 1 | Carty |

Resolved the Town Board approves the expenditure of \$4,900.00 for the RJ Par garage door replacement.

Resolution 46-2024

On a motion of Councilmember Virello, seconded by Councilmember Feld to approve the repairs to the Hilltop Barn.

General discussion about the repairs. The HECDL will be vouchered for the funds.

The motion was

ADOPTED Ayes 4 Dvorchak, Virello, Feld, Carano
 Nays 0
 Absent 1 Carty

Resolved the Town Board approves the expenditure for repairs of the Hilltop Barn.

The Community Garden.

For the past 2 years we have supplied topsoil from Herringtons. For this season they would like 6 loads delivered to top off what they have in the gardens. Councilmember Virello will get back to the board with a price.

The RJ Park Steering Committee.

Councilmember Carano requested that the park signs, approved by the Town Board in 2023, be shared with the board. There was general discussion about the park signage and past approvals.

The RJ Park Steering Committee mission statement was discussed.

Councilmember Virello will attend the next RJ Park Steering Committee meeting.

On a motion of Councilmember Carano, seconded by Supervisor Dvorchak to adopt the RJ Park Steering Committee mission statement.

There was general discussion about the mission statement and revisions.

The motion was

NOT PASSED Ayes 1 Carano
 Nays 0
 Abstain 3 Dvorchak, Feld, Virello
 Absent 1 Carty

Resolution does not pass.

Councilmember Carano discussed the kiosk, the committee will be replacing and reprinting the materials that were in the kiosk, as submitted in the internal board report. Councilmember Virello stated that a lot of the documents were outdated and needed to be updated and discussed. Councilmember Carano stated that the committee had requested a working document for a schedule of events and public programming at the park. Councilmember Virello stated that Meghan McCann can supply a list of public events. There was discussion about the Community Table Calander and the playground sand, maintenance costs and an additional kiosk.

Migratory Bird Issue.

Supervisor Dvorchak reported on the fact that there may be criminal federal penalties in reference to the Migratory Bird Act and mowing/haying farmland.

This topic was brought up last year and there was a discussion with one of the farmers that lease land in the RJ Park. The nesting season is May 15 to August 15. Attorney Dow suggested that a survey be done that could identify the birds at issue and their presence or not in the fields. He also recommended that the town send a letter to the leasing farmer alerting him to the current situation and the law by certified mail.

Fixed Inventory Report.

Supervisor Dvorchak has discussed this issue with the town Accountant who will help create a fixed inventory report with Councilmember Feld.

Workforce Violence Prevention Policy.

Resolution 47-2024

On a motion of Councilmember Carano, seconded by Supervisor Dvorchak to adopt the Workplace Violence Prevention Policy.

General discussion about the deadlines.

The motion was

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|---------|-----------|---------------------------------|
| ADOPTED | Ayes 4 | Dvorchak, Virello, Feld, Carano |
| | Nays 0 | |
| | Abstain 0 | |
| | Absent 1 | Carty |

Resolved, the Town Board approves the Workforce Violence Prevention Policy.

Bottle Bill Resolution 48-2024

WHEREAS, packaging makes up approximately 40 percent of the waste in New York State, and

WHEREAS, managing packaging waste costs New York taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars annually, and

WHEREAS, some packaging is not recyclable and reusable and refillable packaging systems are not readily available, and

WHEREAS, plastic causes serious pollution including litter and use of toxic chemicals, and

WHEREAS, companies that produce packaging should help bear the costs of packaging waste, not just taxpayers, and

WHEREAS, enacting the Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act, as drafted in the New York State Assembly A.5322-A and the New York Senate S.4246-A, would reduce millions of dollars in savings for local governments and taxpayers, and lower greenhouse gas emissions, and

WHEREAS, enacting the Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act should work in tandem with and supplement New York State's Returnable Container Act, and

WHEREAS, New York's Returnable Container Act should be modernized to reflect an expanded market of beverages, and the deposit on beverage containers should be increased to 10 cents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Town of Hillsdale urges the New York State Legislature to pass and Governor Kathy Hochul to sign into law a strong and effective Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act A5322-A/S4246-A, and an expanded and modernized Bottle Bill A.6353/S.237-B, and

RESOLVED, further, that the Town of Hillsdale shall forward copies of this resolution to Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York Assembly Speaker and New York State Senate Majority Leader, the local state assemblymember, the local state senator, and all others deemed necessary and proper.

Michael Richardson attended the meeting to answer any questions from the Town Board.

On a motion of Councilmember Carano, seconded by Councilmember Feld to adopt the Bottle Bill Resolution.

The motion was

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| ADOPTED | Ayes 4 | Dvorchak, Virello, Feld, Carano |
| | Nays 0 | |
| | Abstain 0 | |
| | Absent 1 | Carty |

Resolved, the Town Board approves the Bottle Bill Resolution.

Public Comments

Michael Nicosia from Ancram stated that he attended a town board meeting in June 2023 to go on the agenda to discuss the mowing schedule for Roe Jan Park and breeding birds. There are different criteria for nesting birds from the State and from the Federal government and he has not seen an actual bird nest in the RJ Park field. The fields are mowed up to 3 times a season and it is killing other animals and reptiles. Mr. Nicosia will be surveying the farmland giving photographs to the farmer, John Thompson from the state department and other entities and. The field will be marked by GPS.

Adjournment

With no further business before the Town Board on a motion of Councilmember Feld, seconded by Councilmember Virello, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm carried unanimously.

Robina Ward, Town Clerk

