



**TOWN OF HILLSDALE**  
**Special Town Board Meeting – March 1, 2024**  
**Draft**

The special 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 March 1, 2024, at 12:00 pm. Board members present:

**PRESENT:** Supervisor Mike Dvorchak  
Councilmember Irwin Feld  
Councilmember Joanna Virello

**ABSENT:** Councilmember Jamie Carano Nordenstrom  
Councilmember Tom Carty

**ALSO PRESENT:** Robina Ward Town Clerk  
Emily Stalker Deputy Town Clerk  
Kenneth Dow Esq. Town Attorney via Zoom

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Bud Atwood and Meg Wormley.

**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 12:00pm with the Pledge of allegiance.

**SEWER OPERATOR**

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that he had attended the Public Works meeting and had conversations with other Town Supervisors in reference to finding Sewer Operators in our area. Resulting in a conversation with a company named H2O, and their representative Vice President Roy Rysinger. Mr. Rysinger visited the Hillsdale Sewer Plant accompanied by Town Clerk Ward and Sewer Committee member Bill Sullivan on Tuesday 27 February 2024.

In further telephone discussion with Supervisor Dvorchak, Mr. Rysinger stated that their company was able to take on the position of Sewer Operators for the Town of Hillsdale.

The contract from H2O was submitted to the town and the town attorney for review on February 29, 2024. Attorney Dow reviewed the contract and Supervisor Dvorchak stated that the only detail left undecided at the moment was a starting date. Supervisor Dvorchak announced that two representatives from H2O will be visiting the Sewer Plant at 1:00pm this afternoon and suggested that Councilmembers Virello and Feld join him and H2O. Attorney Dow stated that no town issue discussion should be conducted at the meeting, the visit is for informational purposes only.

**RESOLUTION 19-2024**

On a motion of Councilmember Feld, seconded by Councilmember Virello,  
The following resolution was

ADOPTED      Ayes 3              Dvorchak, Virello, Feld,  
                    Nays 0  
                    Absent 2              Carano, Carty

Resolved that the Town Board authorizes the Supervisor to sign the contract with H2O, with the start date to be decided.

**APPROVAL OF SAFE AT HOME REVISION MISSION STATEMENT**

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that at the last Town Board meeting in February the Town Board did not take a formal vote on approving the Safe at Home revised mission statement. He read the statement.

**RESOLUTION 20-2024**

On a motion of Councilmember Feld, seconded by Councilmember Virello,  
The following resolution was

ADOPTED      Ayes 3              Dvorchak, Virello, Feld,  
                    Nays 0  
                    Absent 2              Carano, Carty

Resolved that the Town Board approves the revised mission statement from the Safe at Home Committee.

**CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS**

Town Clerk Ward stated that the company recommended by the Bank of Greene County is Heartland. Using Heartland would enable the town to take credit card payments online and in person for everything that is not associated with the Hillsdale Court or the Tax Collector. For instance, Building fees, Zoning fees, Planning fees, Sewer fees and Town Clerk billing. The credit card user fees are passed on to the people who want to pay by credit card. The cost to the town would be \$33.50 per month for the online services, and we would have to purchase a credit card machine. The deposits would be made to the appropriate accounts. The Town Board needs to approve Deputy Town Clerk Emily and Town Clerk Ward to accept credit card payments on behalf of the town.

**RESOLUTION 21-2024**

On a motion of Councilmember Virello, seconded by Councilmember Feld,  
The following resolution was

ADOPTED      Ayes 3              Dvorchak, Virello, Feld,  
                    Nays 0  
                    Absent 2              Carano, Carty

Resolved that the Town Board approves the Town Clerk and the Deputy Town Clerk to accept credit card payments on behalf of the town.

**SPEED LIMIT REQUEST**

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that the town had received a request for a speed limit, in Hillsdale it is 1/10 of a mile on Harlemville road bordering Ghent, other towns have signed off on this proposal. Councilmember Feld asked what the current speed limit was, Supervisor Dvorchak stated that he did not think there was one. There was general discussion about the current speed limit as either 40 or 45 mph. The requested speed limit would be lower than the current speed limit.

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Supervisor Dvorchak read the resolution.

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Hillsdale, supports the Town of Ghent and the residents living along that portion of Harlemville Road located in the Town of Ghent that begins at the Taconic State Parkway and extending east to the Ghent Town line who have submitted a petition requesting a speed limit reduction from the current maximum speed of 45 mph applicable to the said Town Highway (hereinafter the "Subject Highway", and

**WHEREAS**,; and the Ghent Town Board has determined that that a reduction of the speed limit would improve safety on the Subject Highway, and

**WHEREAS**, the Hillsdale Town Board agrees with the Ghent Town Board who have determined that under such circumstances a speed limit reduction is warranted.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Town Board of the Town of Hillsdale that the Town Board hereby requests a speed limit reduction for that portion of Harlemville Road located in the Town of Hillsdale that begins at the Town line and extends east to the intersection with County Routes 21 and 21C; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**. That a copy of this Resolution shall be sent to the Columbia County DPW and the Columbia County Traffic Safety Board, with a request that the Columbia County DPW and the Columbia County Traffic Safety Board take appropriate action in connection with reviewing this matter, toward the goal that the speed limit be reduced as requested herein.

**RESOLUTION 22-2024**

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

The following resolution was

ADOPTED      Ayes 3              Dvorchak, Virello, Feld,  
                    Nays 0  
                    Absent 2          Carano, Carty

Resolved by the Town Board does hereby request a speed limit reduction for that portion of Harlemville Road located in the Town of Hillsdale that begins at the Town line and extends east to the intersection with County Routes 21 and 21C.

EASTER EGG HUNT

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that the town was waiting for the approval of a credit card which would enable the purchase of Easter Eggs and candy.

Councilmember Virello stated that what usually happens is that a small group of 4 to 5 people meet at the firehouse and spend an hour or so filling the eggs, and on the day of the hunt the eggs are spread out in the Hamlet Park about an hour before the event. The easter bunny will be present and we need to organize the grand prize.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

ROE JAN PARK APPOINTMENT

Councilmember Virello stated that Victor Amendola is returning to mow and help with general issues at the Roe Jan Park. The salary is now \$20.00 per hour.

**RESOLUTION 23-2024**

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

The following resolution was

ADOPTED      Ayes 3              Dvorchak, Virello, Feld,  
                    Nays 0  
                    Absent 2          Carano, Carty

Resolved that the Town Board re appoint Victor Amendola to work at the Roe Jan Park, to mow at the Sewer plant and to help at the Town Hall if required.

**LIMIT ON DISCUSSION TIME AT TOWN BOARD MEETINGS**

Councilmember Feld stated that there should be a conversation to limit discussion time at board meetings. The last board meeting showed that we overran time in Executive session. Supervisor Dvorchak stated that in Roberts Rules a motion is made and seconded then each board member has ten minutes in discussion and then can speak again for a further ten minutes. Supervisor Dvorchak suggested that the time could be reduced to 5 minutes for both the first and second parts of discussion.

**RESOLUTION 24-2024**

On a motion of Councilmember Feld, seconded by Councilmember Virello,  
The following resolution was

ADOPTED      Ayes 3                  Dvorchak, Virello, Feld,  
                     Nays 0  
                     Absent 2              Carano, Carty

Resolved that the Town Board limit the time for a member to talk to 5 minutes for both times, a total of ten minutes per motion. If the discussion is something that is extremely necessary the time for conversation can be extended.

Attorney Dow commented that the board can have guide line rules that can always be waived if it became necessary for discussion on a really complicated matter.

**GRANT SUBMISSIONS**

Supervisor Dvorchak suggested that the board hold a grant workshop sooner rather than later. He had submitted an application to Molinaro's office which was due yesterday but extended to today. He asked if Town Board members would be available for a grant workshop next Thursday, March 7 at 1:00pm. The mission would be to identify potential items to apply for grants for, like the Hamlet Park, Sewer, Salt Shed, Culverts. An excel spreadsheet has been started, Supervisor Dvorchak will resend it.

With no further business on a motion of Councilmember Feld, seconded by Councilmember Virello, the meeting was adjourned at 11:21am. Carried unanimously.

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Robina Ward, Town Clerk

