



TOWN OF HILLSDALE
TOWN BOARD MEETING
February 14, 2023

A regular meeting of the Hillsdale Town Board was held on Tuesday, February 14, 2023 at 7:00 pm in the Hillsdale Town Hall with the following members present:

PRESENT:	Supervisor	Chris Kersten
	Councilmember	Tom Carty
	Councilmember	Steve Tiger
	Councilmember	Joanna Virello
	Councilmember	Robina Ward

OTHERS PRESENT: Kathi Doolan, Town Clerk; Elizabeth Sheer, Deputy Town Clerk; Matt Cabral, Town Attorney; Richard Briggs, Highway Superintendent; Joe Hanselman Jr., Tax Collector, Fire Deputy; Meg Wormley, Garrin Benfield, Jamie Carano, Dan Levy, Amy Dickinsen and other members of the public.

Supervisor Kersten began by stating this is the inaugural meeting with the new teleconference equipment and thanked Deputy Town Clerk Elizabeth Sheer for setting it up.

He asked for a moment of silence to honor the 41,000 earthquake victims in Turkey and Syria.

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comments - None

Resolution #22. Accept Minutes of the January 10, 2023 Town Board meeting.
On a motion by Councilmember Tom Carty and seconded by Councilmember Steve Tiger to accept the Minutes of the January 10, 2023 Town Board meeting:

Adopted Vote

Ayes – 5

Nays - 0

Resolved to accept the Minutes of the January 10, 2023 Town Board meeting.

Resolution #23. Accept Minutes of the January 26 Special meeting.

On a motion by Councilmember Tom Carty and seconded by Councilmember Joanna Virello to accept the Minutes of the January 26, 2023 Special meeting.

Adopted Vote

Ayes - 5

Nays - 0

Resolved to accept the Minutes of the January 26, 2023 Special meeting.

Supervisor's Report – Supervisor Chris Kersten began his report acknowledging Kathi Doolan for her 7 (seven) years of service as Town Clerk. Kathi has formally resigned as Town Clerk and will be succeeded by Elizabeth Sheer as Interim Town Clerk through the end of the year.

- **BridgeNY Grant.** A major BridgeNY Grant request has been submitted to provide funding for the replacement of the West End bridge.
- **Hamlet Park Project.** Funding for the Hamlet Park Project has been denied.
- **Streetscape Project.** The Town is ready to apply and is monitoring DOT (Department of Transportation) Grant possibilities.
- **Town Buildings Repair Project.** The Supervisor, Councilmember Ward and Building Inspector Lee Heim have held two project meetings for the major Town Hall Repairs. At the next meeting, March 7, the Committee will review drawings and the scope of the work to be performed. Following Board approval, the project will go to bid. Robina may have further information to share in her report.
- **Town Insurance.** This year the Town Insurance was put out to bid to two providers. The Town retained it's policy with Metz Wood and saved over \$15,000.00 in premiums for an equivalent policy.
- **Sewer District.** The District posted a surplus of \$17,866.55 in 2022 representing a significant turnaround. The system continues to operate normally. Mike Scheller, Sewer Operator, has recovered from his illness and will return to work on or about March 6.
- **County News.** The Town received \$140,873.14 in Fourth Quarter Sales Tax receipts.

The County Food Scrap Composting Program will be announced over the coming weeks along with protocols for the materials to be accepted.

A major upgrade project is underway for the DMV and Treasurer's Office building, including roofing, HVAC, and other infrastructure improvements.

Highway Superintendent's Report – Richard Briggs. The recent series of ice storms has caused a lot of damage on the roads and required dead tree cuttings. The garbage bags that were left along Mitchell Street had names and addresses in the bags who are being contacted. During the winter, Speed signs are removed because of plowing. They will come back in the Spring.

Town Clerk - Kathi Doolan. Although Tax Collector Joe Hanselman held office hours three mornings a week for the month of January, several calls came in to the Town Clerk's office and the Assessor's office. Many were concerned that they had not received their Tax bill. All were mailed at the same time but the postal system is not operating as it did in the past. The Clerks helped some residents navigate the Town website to pull up their bill. More requests for marriage licenses included one going back to 1932. The Shredding bins will be back March 13 – March 24.

Fire District - Joe Hanselman, Jr. The fire district responded to 10 calls last month. All were alarm activations except for one fire.

The Palm Sunday Brunch returns at the Firehouse April 2, from 8:00 am until 2:00 pm.

Tax Collector – Joe Hanselman, Jr. collected \$1,355,504.13 in taxes. 180 residents walked in to pay directly. This includes tax levies of \$311,749.00 due to the Fire Districts; \$42,500.00 due to the Roeliff Jansen Community Library and \$6,884.00 due to the Lighting District. The remaining \$969,611.00 is kept by the Town. The County's share of the total 2023 taxes collected in Hillsdale is \$2,784,238.00.

Sewer District – The Supervisor asked Attorney Matt Cabral for a brief report. The Town is close to finalizing a plan to repay the loans. It should be ready to announce at next month's Board Meeting. Matt stated the ability to transfer ARPA funds and reimburse the District for relatable costs. The loan will be paid back without a significant impact on the residents in the Sewer District.

Town Board Reports:

Human Resources – Steve Tiger. To date, 23 have taken the online Harassment training. Tom Carty sent the link on the website to all committee members and volunteers. Highway Time Sheet issue resolved. Steve met with Richard Briggs, Highway Superintendent and Bob Patterson regarding payroll hours submitted on the Highway Time sheet. Issue was resolved. Highway Employee Insurance Buy-Outs. Employees can accept insurance buy-outs if they do not want Town insurance.

Infrastructure – Robina Ward. Ward is getting quotes for replacing the Welcome to Hillsdale sign on Route 23 that was damaged. The estimate is \$3,000.00. The insurance money has come in for the two street light poles that came down. She is recommended the poles be moved off the street in their current location.

Up and Coming Events. Working with Councilmember Joanna Virello for an Easter Egg Hunt in the Hamlet Park on April 2. Last year they filled over 400 eggs for the children to find and this year they purchase more.

Kidsdale, July 15 and July 22 will involve using funds from the Celebrations account and the Bands account.

Waiting for two bids on the Generator for the Highway.

Town Buildings Repair Project. The committee met with CPL to review plans. They added work with the outside pillars. In a month a plan will be completed included areas to be put out for bid.

Roe Jan Park – Joanna Virello. Working on Summer Youth program and youth projects. Developing signage for Dog Leash laws and No Hunting.

Committee Reports

Safe at Home – The Supervisor reported the Committee had submitted a request for funds from the Berkshire Taconic Foundation.

Economic Development – Tom Carty. The Committee is updating its brochure.

Continuing/New Business

Hamlet Park - Tom Carty. The Committee is off to a slow start. There were not many people at the last meeting. More volunteers are needed.

New Business

The Supervisor recommended taking \$1 million of the \$1.7 million in the Town's checking account with the Bank of Greene County, currently with 0% interest, and open a Money Market account with 2% interest.

Resolution #24. Approve the Supervisor Open a Money Market Account with the Bank of Greene County.

On a motion by Councilmember Joanna Virello and seconded by Councilmember Robina Ward to approve the Supervisor open a Money Market with the Bank of Greene County.

Adopted Vote:

Ayes – 5

Nays – 0

Resolved to approve the Supervisor open a Money Market Account with the Bank of Greene County.

Grants. The Town has applied for the NYBridge grant.

The Board has allocated up to \$300,000 for repairs in the Town Hall and hopes to begin construction by May or June.

The accountant, Bob Patterson, has completed an audit report for the Town Court. The Board has received a copy of the report. Robina asked about the check that was written and not deposited. It is being taken care of.

Motion. Adopt the Audit report of the Town Court.

On a motion by Robina Ward and seconded by Joanna Virello to accept the Audit report of the Town Court

Motion Vote

Ayes – 5

Nays - 0

Motion Carried

Public Comment – Amy Dickensen stated she is tracking issues from the last Planning Board meeting, specifically a new house on Texas Hill on the Ridge line. She expressed concern on the impact of the interruption of wildlife and is recommending the Town tighten laws to protect the natural resources.

Resolution #25. Pay Bills. The Board has approved the Abstracts for the following:
January 19, 2023

General

Highway

Sewer
Parks
Capital Fund
February 6, 2023
General - \$ 13,606.13
Highway - 109,512.15
Sewer - 549.71
Parks - 36.67
Capital Fund - 2,530.58

Executive Session.

Motion. On a motion by Tom Carty and seconded by Robina Ward to move into Executive Session at 7:50 pm to discuss a personnel matter.

Motion Vote

Ayes – 5

Nays - 0

Motion Carried.

Move out of Executive Session

Motion. On a motion by Steve Tiger and seconded by Joanna Virello to move out of Executive Session at 8:25 pm.

Motion Vote

Ayes – 5

Nays - 0

Motion Carried.

Resolution #26. Retain Kathi Doolan as an Administrative Assistant

On a motion by Steve Tiger and seconded by Joanna Virello to retain Kathi Doolan as an Administrative Assistant for up to eight (8) hours per week for an unspecified amount of time to train and assist the interim Town Clerk

Adopted Vote

Ayes – 5

Nays - 0

Resolved to retain Kathi Doolan as an Administrative Assistant up to eight (8) hours per week for an unspecified amount of time.

Motion. Adjourn Meeting.

On a motion by Tom Carty and seconded by Joanna Virello to adjourn the Town Board meeting at 8:28 pm.

Motion Vote

Ayes – 5

Nays - 0

Motion Carried

The next Town Board meeting will be Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathi Doolan, Town Clerk

