



**TOWN OF HILLSDALE
TOWN BOARD MEETING
July 21, 2026
Minutes**

NOTE: After a public hearing on April 25, 2024, 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.

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 July 21, 2026, at 7:00 pm.

Board members present:

PRESENT:	Supervisor	Mike Dvorchak
	Councilmember	Irwin Feld
	Councilmember	Nico Hernandez
	Councilmember	Jamie Carano Nordenstrom
	Councilmember	Bart Ziegler

ALSO PRESENT:	Robina Ward	Town Clerk
	Emily Stalker	Deputy Town Clerk
	Steve Tiger	Deputy Supervisor
	Richard Briggs	Highway Superintendent

OTHERS PRESENT: 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.

Public Comment: One person spoke referencing the Highway Department and chip sealed roads.

Correspondence

Davidson, Amy, Remarks from June Meeting
Whiteman, Osterman & Hanna representing Eric Clark, Maple Street Closure
Shepardson, Tom – FOIL Request regarding Maple Lane

Approval of Minutes

June 16, 2026, Town Board Minutes

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

Councilmember Carano Nordenström stated that the minutes on her computer were different to those posted on the agenda. She will email the screenshots. General discussion.

TOWN BOARD MEETING

July 21, 2026, PAGE 2

The motion was

ADOPTED Ayes 4 Dvorchak, Feld, Hernandez, Ziegler.
 Abstain/Naye 1 Carano Nordenstrom

Resolved the Town Board approves June 16, 2026, Town Board minutes.

Supervisor's Report

County Report

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that he attended the Public Works Committee meeting, one of the subjects was County Route 21, they are fixing the drainage the road is not being widened. There was concern by a resident about water being taken from a stream, it was well below the legal limits set by New York State and there was protection for any sea life.

Town Finances

June financials have been posted.

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that we are in good shape and he and the Town Clerk had reviewed the accounts that were over 50% and can discuss them in the budget amendments.

June Abstracts

General	26,944.75
Highway	59,643.83
Sewer	38,707.81
Park	1,270.28
Capital	10,491.17

Budget Amendment 7-2026

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

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that there was an increase to the buildings account for increased utilities plus the use of Meerkat for a mouse problem at both the Town Hall and Town Garage. An increase to the Town Supervisor equipment fund for a repair to his MAC laptop. General discussion.

The motion was

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Dvorchak, Feld, Hernandez, Ziegler, Carano Nordenstrom

Resolved the Town Board approves the Budget Amendment 7-2026.

New Local Law

Resolution 73 to pass Local Law 1-2026: "A Local Law to Require Initial Submission of all Zoning Applications to the Zoning Officer."

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

General discussion.

The motion was

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Dvorchak, Feld, Hernandez, Ziegler, Carano Nordenstrom

Resolved the Town Board approves the Local Law 1-2026 to require initial submission of all Zoning Applications to the Zoning Officer.

Town Clerk Report

Town Clerk Ward reported that they were working their way through the new web site, it is much better than the old one, the dashboard, where we can change things, is new. The dog licensing now has to include voluntary contributions to a local shelter this is a new New York State Law. Town Clerk Ward will have it ready for the August Meeting. People have been asking for copies of marriage licenses or birth certificates to prepare for visas or passports for different countries.

Highway Superintendent's Report

Highway Superintendent Briggs submitted his monthly report.

Highway superintendent made a statement in reference to Amy Davidsen's letter to the board.

When Highway Superintendent Briggs refers to they, it refers to Amy Davidsen, Miles Flaumenbaum and Jamie Carano Nordenstrom. Superintendent Briggs brings all his paperwork to every meeting, including CHIPS, and chip sealing. We, including the Town Supervisor and the Town Clerk, had extensive meetings about projected costs of chip sealing, his 39 years of experience should mean something. When he brought up harassment, in his opinion, this Taconic Creek group has brought up about Rip Rap, Rip Rap is large, Gabion is smaller and is 2"-4" is the smallest, nowhere is there Rip Rap on Texas Hill Road. There was an easement agreement with the property owner three years ago. Superintendent Briggs stated he had met with Amy Davidsen on many occasions three years ago to explain the situation. Mr. Flamenbaum bought the house with that easement; there is nothing he can do about it. When he says harassment, he has explained this at every meeting, answered questions he refuses to apologize for stating that they are harassing him. He has been chip selling at least a mile of road since 2007 and will continue for the benefit of the taxpayers of Hillsdale.

Grants for Salt shed and Culverts

Gretchen Stevens explained that both grants are WQIP grants, the main grant for the Salt Shed is due July 31st. The culvert grant would be for two or more on the critical culverts as described by Trout Unlimited. Supervisor Dvorchak stated that the Town Board needed to make two resolutions, one for each grant, there is a 25% match. The salt shed grant would only be for \$600,000.00, the cost is estimated at one million. The Mitchell Street south culvert pipe would be \$120,000.00.
General discussion.

Resolution 74 to apply for a WQIP grant for the Salt Shed, \$600,00.00, with a 25% match of \$150,000.00.

The total cost of the Salt Shed would be one million dollars.

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

General discussion. Subject to the Board receiving an RFA, request for application.

The motion was

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Dvorchak, Feld, Hernandez, Ziegler, Carano Nordenstrom

Resolved the Town Board approves to apply for a WQIP grant for the Salt Shed, \$600,00.00, with a 25% match of \$150,000.00.

Resolution 75 to apply for a WQIP grant for up to 4 culverts, \$500,00.00, with a 25% match of \$125,000.00.

Subject to the Board receiving an RFA, request for application

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

The motion was

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Dvorchak, Feld, Hernandez, Ziegler, Carano Nordenstrom

Resolved the Town Board approves to apply for a WQIP grant for culverts, \$500,00.00, with a 25% match of \$125,000.00.

Resolution 76-2026 a resolution in support of the New York Association of Towns Bill of Rights.

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

General discussion.

The motion was

ADOPTED Ayes 4 Dvorchak, Feld, Hernandez, Ziegler, Carano Nordenstrom

Naye 1 Carano Nordenstrom

Resolved the Town Board approves a resolution in support of the New York Association of Towns Bill of Rights.

Resolution 77-2026 to designate Supervisor Dvorchak to attend the Annual Legislative Priorities Session of the Association of Towns of the State of New York, to be held during September 23, and to cast the vote of the aforesaid town, pursuant to §6 of Article III of the Constitution and Bylaws of said Association.

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

The motion was

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Dvorchak, Feld, Hernandez, Ziegler, Carano Nordenstrom
Resolved the Town Board approves to designate Supervisor Dvorchak to attend the Annual Legislative Priorities Session of the Association of Towns of the State of New York, to be held during September 23, and to cast the vote of the aforesaid town, pursuant to §6 of Article III of the Constitution and Bylaws of said Association.

Resolution 78-2026 To approve Letter of Support for the Village of Philmont's application to the NYS 2026 Consolidated Funding Application (CFA).

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

The motion was

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Dvorchak, Feld, Hernandez, Ziegler, Carano Nordenstrom
Resolved the Town Board approves Letter of Support for the Village of Philmont's application to the NYS 2026 Consolidated Funding Application (CFA).

Revolutionary War Veteran Memorial/Cemetery Project

Councilmember Feld introduced the idea of a commemoration for the 72 Revolutionary Soldiers in Hillsdale. A small stone monument and plaque. There would be no cost to the Town. Funds in HECD as well as a private donation. The question is the location of the monument. There will be further discussions and a proposal.

Resolution 79-2026 to discontinue any further consideration of closing off Maple Street.

General discussion.

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

The motion was

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Dvorchak, Feld, Hernandez, Ziegler, Carano Nordenstrom
Resolved the Town Board approves discontinue any further consideration of closing off Maple Street.

Hamlet Park

Resolution 80-2026 to approve rebidding the Bandshell project for solely the construction and concrete cost and eliminating the electrical and landscape work.

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

General discussion.

The motion was

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Dvorchak, Feld, Hernandez, Ziegler, Carano Nordenstrom
Resolved the Town Board approves rebidding the Bandshell project for solely the construction and concrete cost and eliminating the electrical and landscape work.

CSC CEC Task Force

Resolution 81-2026 Town of Hillsdale CSC Co-Sponsorship of Repair Cafe at Roeliff Jansen Library on October 3, 2026.

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

General discussion.

The motion was

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Dvorchak, Feld, Hernandez, Ziegler, Carano Nordenstrom
Resolved the Town Board approves CSC Co-Sponsorship of Repair Cafe at Roeliff Jansen Library on October 3, 2026.

Level 3 Charger Town Engineer Scope of Work.

The Understory Regional Resilience Grant Scoping, review in November.

Tom Carty's Highway Garage Solar Project Estimate 11/2025, review at next meeting.

CEC Electric Landscaping Equipment Grant(s) Compliance. General discussion.

ChargePoint

Town Clerk Ward stated that she had contacted ChargePoint as one of the charger ports was not working. They are planning to replace the plug and were told that we have a full replacement contract on the charger. Town Clerk Ward stated that the report was accurate, Councilmember Carano Nordenstrom asked to see all the receipts. Supervisor Dvorchak asked Councilmember Carano Nordenström to put the request in writing and he would forward to the Town Accountant.

Roe Jan Park

Councilmember Hernandez stated, Camp started no issues, looking at a needs assessment.

Sewer

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that the tank at the plant was to be cleaned on July 28. The control Panel has been recalibrated.

Resolution 82-2026 to move the August 2026 meeting from August 18th to August 25th at 7PM.

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

The motion was

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Dvorchak, Feld, Hernandez, Ziegler, Carano Nordenstrom

Resolved the Town Board approves to move the August 2026 meeting from August 18th to August 25th at 7PM.

Any other business that may come before the Town.

Adjournment

On a motion of Councilmember Hernandez , seconded by Councilmember Carano Nordenstrom.

The motion was approved by all members of the board at 8:39 pm.

Robina Ward, Town Clerk

