



TOWN OF HILLSDALE
Town Board Meeting - January 9, 2024
DRAFT

A regular 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 January 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

ALSO PRESENT: Robina Ward Town Clerk
Emily Stalker Deputy Town Clerk
Elizabeth Sheer Clerk Administrator
Kenneth Dow Esq Town Attorney
Joe Hanselman Jr. Town Tax Collector, Fire Company President via Zoom.

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 7:00pm with the Pledge to the Flag. Supervisor Dvorchak then thanked his fellow Town Board members, Elizabeth, Emily and Robina in the Town Clerks office and the new Town Attorney, Kenneth Dow, for their service to the town.

RESOLUTION

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion of Councilmember Feld, seconded by Councilmember Carano Nordenstrom the following resolution was

ADOPTED Ayes 4 Dvorchak, Virello, Feld, Carano
Nays 0

Absent 1 Carty
Motion carried 4:1

Resolved that the minutes of the December 12, 2023, meeting be approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kathryn Levin stated that she had been told by a Spectrum Lineman that we will soon have 5G on the poles throughout town. Kathryn Levin presented the Town Board with books containing evidence used in the Washington DC Circuit Court case, 20-1025, the Environmental Health Trust against the Federal Communications Commission showing the harmful effects of 5G networks on the population. The Judges ruled against the FCC. Ms. Levin suggested that the town needs new laws regarding public safety and that we should utilize an attorney well versed in telecom. We received a book summarizing the harm of radiation on the population. Reference was made about town and cities in the USA and abroad were placing moratoriums or banning 5G networks.

Stu Summer stated that it was clear that there isn't anyway for the public and town board to have a conversation, he suggested a meeting of an hour once a month.

REPORT OF TOWN OFFICIALS

SUPERVISOR

Supervisor Dvorchak reported that he attended the Organizational Meeting of the County Board of Supervisors on January 2, he will be on the Economic Development Committee and the Public Works Committee. Other topics were the county receiving a grant for Accessible Dwelling units and the county moving forward with a short term rental law that could benefit Hillsdale

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that Housing is our number one Economic Development issue.

RESOLUTION 1-2024

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that the Town should sign a letter of intent to the New York Pro-Housing Community Program.

On a motion of Supervisor Dvorchak, seconded by Councilmember Carano Nordenstrom. Councilmember Carano Nordenstrom asked that the verbiage be the same as that used in the link that was sent to all the Councilmembers. Supervisor Dvorchak confirmed that was accurate and the letter was very basic.

The following resolution was

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

Resolved that the Town Board will sign a letter of intent to join the New York Pro-Housing Community Program.

The Supervisor will form three Town Board Committees. Town Board Committees consist of Town Board members and are distinct from Citizen Advisory Committees.

The Town Grant Committee will be headed by Councilmember Carano Nordenstrom and Councilmember Carty. To keep track of all the grants to the town.

The Town Housing Committee will be headed by Councilmember Feld and Councilmember Virello, who will attend the monthly meetings of the Columbia County Housing Task Force and report back to the Town Board, and to spearhead our certification as a Pro Housing Community.

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The Town Comprehensive Plan Committee will be headed by Councilmember Carano Nordenstrom and Councilmember Carty. To set the groundwork for looking at the town Comprehensive Plan. Supervisor Dvorchak stated that Councilmember Carano Nordenstrom and Councilmember Carty should hold off working on this committee for another month or two until we get the process set as a lot of ground work needs to be done.

RESOLUTION 2-2024

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that the Town should sign a letter of intent to participate in the Columbia County All Hazards Mitigation Plan, and to update our authorization, with the amendment that the town will appoint a Primary Hazard point of contact person, a Secondary Hazard point of contact person and a Flood Plane Administrator and we will then send the letter.

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

ADOPTED Ayes 4 Dvorchak, Virello, Feld, Carano

Nays 0

Absent 1 Carty

Motion carried 4:1

Resolved that the Town Board will appoint a Primary Hazard point of contact person, a Secondary Hazard point of contact person and a Flood Plane Administrator. The Town Board will sign a letter of intent to participate in the Columbia County All Hazards Mitigation Plan.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Supervisor Dvorchak reported that Superintendent Briggs could not attend the Town Board meeting as he and his crew are out in the field doing storm work.

RESOLUTION 3-2024

Supervisor Dvorchak read into record the Agreement for the expenditure of Highway Monies 2024, a provision of Section 284 of the Highway Law.

On a motion of Councilmember Feld, seconded by Councilmember Virello. Councilmember Feld asked was any of the roads listed on the 284 were replacing Dirt Roads, Supervisor Dvorchak answered that they were not included. The following resolution was

ADOPTED Ayes 4 Dvorchak, Virello, Feld, Carano

Nays 0

Absent 1 Carty

Resolved that the Town Board accepts the Agreement for the expenditure of Highway Monies 2024, a provision of the 284 Highway Law.

Town Clerk Ward read into the record the three bids received for Dry Screened Winter Road Sand and tree work for the 2024-2025 season.

Name of Bidder	Address	Amount
Segalla San & Gravel, Inc.	112 Allyndale Road, Cannan, CT.	\$15.30 per ton
A Colarusso & Son Inc.	PO Box 302, 91 Newman Rd, Hudson, NY	\$16.00 per ton
DeRuzzio Tree Co	78 Sollar Heights Rd., Ghent, NY	\$155 /\$255 per hour

Superintendent Briggs recommended that we accept all three bids as in the past some of the suppliers run out of the required product. All three bids were accepted by the Town Board.

RESOLUTION 4-2024

Reported by Town Clerk Ward that Highway Superintendent Briggs requested the Town Boards approval to sell used equipment at auction.

A 99 International Plow Truck and a 5520 Mower.

On a motion of Councilmember Virello, seconded by Councilmember Feld. Councilmember Carano Nordenstrom asked that this type of request be given to the Town Board in advance of the meeting, Councilmember Feld asked if the equipment was to be replaced, Town Clerk Ward stated she believed that they had both been replaced. Attorney Dow asked if the sale was by Auction, Town Clerk Ward affirmed the sale would be at auction. The following resolution was

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

Resolved that the Town Board agrees to the sale of the used Highway Equipment at Auction by the Highway Superintendent.

FIRE DISTRICT REPORT

Fire Company President Hanselman, attending via Zoom, reported that there were 119 calls for 2023 and 2 in January this year.

TAX COLLECTOR

Tax collection Officer Hanselman reported that he is at the Town Hall building to collect taxes on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays through the month of January.

TOWN CLERK

The Association of towns requested that the document be read at this Town Board meeting , to remind the town to assign a delegate and an alternate to attend the annual business meeting with the purpose of electing the President, 5 Vice Presidents and voting on the Associations annual legislative platform. The assignments should be made by those attending the training in New York City. Supervisor Dvorchak offered to be the delegate along with Councilmember Feld. There was discussion of whether Councilmembers Virello and Carano Nordenstrom would be able to attend training.

The Town Clerk requested that the subscription to the New York Town Clerks Association in the amount of \$85.00 be paid.

RESOLUTION 5-2024

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

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

Resolved that the Town Board agrees to pay the yearly subscription to the New York Town Clerks Association.

Town Clerk Ward stated that she was investigating getting a credit card machine for the Clerk's office and being able to accept credit cards on the town website for Building permits, Planning Board and Zoning Board applications and licenses etc. We are applying for a Town Credit card, and we have signed the bank

paperwork for the town's bank accounts. We are ordering direct deposit machines from the bank. Town Clerk Ward reported that there was one incident of a lost dog. The owner was found.

SEWER DISTRICT REPORT

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that the Town had received an emailed letter from Mr. Hindes in reference to the Columbia County Board of Health issue with his proposed business, Twisted Sister Cafe. To bring everyone up to date Supervisor Dvorchak said that the Town Engineer from CPL had submitted 3 proposals for remedies at the December 2023 Town Board meeting. The board at that time tabled the discussion.

Mr. Hindes provided a map of the location of his Coffee Shop, stamped, and certified by his Engineer, Pat Prendergast. He restated the details included in his email to the Town Board.

General discussion followed, easement requirements will be forthcoming from Herrington's Inc., Steve Bluestone at the Roe Jan Brewery, and others property owners affected by the relocation of the sewer force mains. Councilmember Carano Nordenstrom suggested that the Town Engineer should review the stamped map, Town Attorney Dow agreeing, prior to the town making a resolution.

RESOLUTION 6-2024

On a motion of Supervisor Dvorchak, seconded by Councilmember Virello, the following resolution was

ADOPTED Ayes 4 Dvorchak, Virello, Feld, Carano

 Nays 0

 Absent 1 Carty

Resolved that the Town Board agrees that the Town Engineer should review the stamped map presented by Kevin Hindes.

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that the 2023 Audit discussion would be moved to 2:00pm on January 25, 2024, with the agreement of the town board.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Supervisor Dvorchak stated that he had spoken with Victor Cornelious, town grant writer, and that the West End Bridge grant application was in process and will be submitted by January 17, 2024.

The grant application for the Streetscape Project, Anthony and Coldwater Street sidewalks, was due today, included were letters of support from local businesses, submitted by CPL.

The historic streetlights are too close to the roadway. Another pole was knocked down, most likely by a DOT plow. The Town Clerk reported that the company that installed the lights are willing to work on moving them to the DOT right of way at the back of the sidewalks. The new downed pole will be reported to the Towns Insurance Company. The prior documentation and emails will be transferred to Councilmember Feld by prior Councilmember Ward for follow up.

Town Hall Repairs, font columns refurbished. concrete replaced. The metal window wells were installed all to CPL's specifications.

The Roof and Gutter work was not completed to CPL's specifications and are being remedied.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Supervisor Dvorchak advised the Town Board that the monthly Committee Reports would be combined into one master report within a week from their meetings.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Planning Board has made a recommendation to the Town Board to hire a person to the position of Planning Board Secretary, for approximately 20 hours per month at a rate of \$20.00 per hour.

The matter will be discussed in Executive Session.

A member of the public brought up the fact that the Towns Hazard Mitigation Plan had not been posted on the website. Supervisor Dvorchak stated that that would be remedied as soon as possible.

Ellen Levy, Housing Committee Chair stated that she wanted to congratulate everyone on their election and on the signing on for the Pro Housing Community program.

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

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

Resolved that the Town Board agrees that the Town Board move into executive session at 8:22pm, to discuss personnel appointments.

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

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

Resolved that the Town Board agreed to move back to the regular meeting at 8:41pm.

RESOLUTION 7-2024

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

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

Resolved that the Town Board agrees to appoint Jayme Spencer to the position of Planning Board Secretary.

With no further business, on a motion of Councilmember Feld, seconded by Councilmember Virello, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm. Carried unanimously.

Robina Ward, Town Clerk

