



**TOWN OF HILLSDALE
BOARD MEETING
January 11, 2022**

A regular meeting of the Hillsdale Town Board was held on Tuesday, January 11, 2022 remotely through a ZOOM Conference call at 7:00 pm with the following members:

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; Toby Butterfield; Howard VanLenten; Audrey Kropp, Paul Duernberger, Janis Smythe, Barbara Pascale, Tim Stooksbury; Jeremy Dodd; Meg Wormley; and other members of the public

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Supervisor Kersten.

Resolution #11. Accept Minutes of the December 14, 2021 Town Board Meeting.

On a motion by Councilmember Tom Carty and seconded by Councilmember Joanna Virello to accept the minutes of the December 14, 2021 Town Board meeting amending the Approval of Highway Checking resolution #94 on page 5 to indicate 4 Ayes and 1 Nay. Councilmember Robina Ward voted Nay.

Adopted Vote

Ayes – 5

Nays -- 0

Resolved to accept the Minutes of the December 14, 2021 Town Board meeting.

Supervisor’s Report – Supervisor Chris Kersten.

The Supervisor welcomed Joanna Virello to the Board and congratulated Tom Carty for his reelection and appointment as Deputy Supervisor.

- Masks and Covid tests available in Town Hall
- New Covid cases in Columbia County are highest ever
- Board of Supervisors Organizational Meeting, January 3 – Supervisor to continue to serve on Economic Development, Public Works, Education and Broadband committees.
- Town in strong financial position to make progress with 2022 goals.

Councilmember Tiger asked for an update on the Sheriff's Department. The Supervisor stated that in late December there was a special meeting of the County Board of Supervisors with discussion about the proposed change in moving Emergency Management operation from the Sheriff's department to become an independent entity reporting directly to the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. It became a partisan issue. In early January, there was a vote during the follow-up meeting. The emergency management operation will be moving to become its own entity and will be overseen by the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. Offices will be moving to a new location.

Highway Superintendent – Richard Briggs. Not in attendance.

Town Clerk – Kathi Doolan- December quite busy. Increase in number of fees, primarily with dog licenses, new Transfer Station Recycling stickers and new Trash bag Tags.

Fire District – Joe Hanselman, Jr. Not in attendance

Tax Collector – Joe Hanselman, Jr. Not in attendance

Presentation. Cornell Cooperative Extension. Howard Van Lenten introduced Audrey Kropp, with the Cornell Cooperative Extension who has been working with the Climate Smart Committee to help Hillsdale become a Climate Smart Community. The presentation is intended to bring the Board up to date with what the committee has been doing over the past year and what lies ahead. The Climate Smart Resiliency Plan offers research-safe solution to communities. Copies of the presentation are available upon request.

Public Comments – None

Appointments:

Resolution #12. Reappoint John Avenia to the Planning Board with a term ending 2028. On a motion by Councilmember Ward and seconded by Councilmember Joanna Virello to reappoint John Avenia to the Planning Board.

Adopted Vote

Ayes – 5

Nays – 0

Resolved to reappoint John Avenia to the Planning Board.

Resolution #13. Reappoint Barbara Barrantes to the Zoning Board for a term ending in 2026.

On a motion by Councilmember Tom Carty and seconded by Councilmember Robina Ward to reappoint Barbara Barrantes to the Zoning Board.

Adopted Vote

Ayes – 5

Nays – 0

Resolved to reappoint Barbara Barrantes to the Zoning Board.

Resolution #14. Reappointment of CAC members for a two-year term ending in 2023:

David Lewis, Chair
Paul Duernberger,
Mary King
Gretchen Stevens
Caroline Stewart

On a motion by Councilmember Carty and seconded by Councilmember Virello to reappoint the above CAC members.

Adopted Vote

Ayes – 5
Nays – 0

Resolved to reappoint the CAC members David Lewis, Paul Duernberger, Mary King, Gretchen Stevens, and Caroline Stewart for a two-year term.

Old Business/New Business

Sewer District – Supervisor Kersten stated that the Sewer continues to operate efficiently at one-third capacity and anticipates a modest surplus in the 2021 budget. The Town Accountant has looked into the Sewer District’s finances and has concluded that with the expenses incurred in 2019 and 2020, owed to the General Fund is \$121,277.24. According to his assessment, the expenses were appropriately charged, and included grant writing and engineering expenses. The Board needs to develop a plan to pay back this money to the tax payers.

The next meeting of the Sewer committee will be held February 15 at 5:00 pm.

Robina Ward asked for a breakdown of the \$121,000 + because she stated her numbers are different. The Supervisor will arrange a meeting with the accountant, Robina and himself to review her concerns.

Town Insurance policy. This afternoon the Supervisor sent the Board the latest memo from Metz Wood with the new insurance policy and attachments. The Insurance premium summary totals \$46,811.41. Discussion regarding increasing the deductible.

Resolution #15. On a motion by Councilmember Ward and seconded by Councilmember Tiger to accept the Insurance bid from Metz Wood as presented.

Adopted Vote

Ayes – 5
Nays – 0

Resolved to accept the Insurance bid as presented.

Town Board Reports

Human Resources – Steve Tiger. Employee Handbook

Resolution #16. Acceptance of Employee Handbook.

On a motion by Councilmember Tiger and seconded by Councilmember Carty to adopt the Employee Handbook

Adopted Vote

Ayes – 5

Nays – 0

Resolved to adopt the Employee Handbook.

Deputy Court Clerk. The Court has recommended the Town hire Peter Prado as Deputy Court Clerk at \$16.00 per hour replacing Ramona Bellamy.

Resolution #17. Hire Peter Prado as Deputy Court Clerk.

On a motion by Steve Tiger and seconded by Tom Carty to hire Peter Prado as Deputy Court Clerk.

Adopted Vote

Ayes – 5

Nays – 0

Resolution #18. Assistant Operator of the Wastewater Plant.

On a motion by Steve Tiger and seconded by Robina Ward to hire Cliff Albright as Assistant Operator of the Wastewater Plant.

Adopted Vote

Ayes – 5

Nays – 0

Resolved to hire Cliff Albright as Assistant Operator of the Wastewater Plant.

Infrastructure – Robina Ward. Working on timetable and meeting with contractors for the Remediation plan of the downstairs of the Town Hall. Preparing an RFP for maintenance of the Parks and gardens and an RFP for a Town Engineer. Plan to complete in the next week or two.

Procurement Policy. She stated she feels the Town needs to update the budget from \$5,000 to at \$10,000. It impacts the talks with the contractors for the remediation in particular. She would like to have it as a discussion at the next Town Board meeting. The Supervisor agreed.

Parks – Joanna Virello. Nothing to report. She stated she has she will prepare for the next meeting.

Broadband - Steve Tiger. Nothing to report. He gave Tod Wohlfarth a thank you for the tireless work he puts into this project. The committee works endlessly.

Committee Reports

Economic Development – Tom Carty. A one-half page ad ran in the Columbia Paper over the holiday season along with a digital video campaign on Facebook and Instagram. This was to encourage visitors to come to Hillsdale to eat, to shop, to play.

Joanna Virello reported changes in social media. Hey Hillsdale will be moved to Town of Hillsdale.

Tom Carty also reported the committee has decided to help promote Hillsdale Civic Pride fund raising website. They also agreed to work with the Hamlet committee on the need for the cleaning and repainting of Town signs.

Hamlet Committee –Toby Butterfield. Working on:

- Clean Up day
- Car Show
- Results for Hamlet Park Renovations Project Grants
- Speed Limit Reductions

Safe at Home Committee – Not in attendance. Tom Carty reported that he and Joyce Lapenn have applied for a \$500 Grant from the Bank of Greene County to help the second annual Chores Day taking place later in the year.

Public Comments – None.

Continuing/New Business

Resolution #19. Resolution Against Hate.

On a motion by Councilmember Tiger and seconded by Councilmember Virello

Roll call Vote:

Councilmember Carty – Aye

Councilmember Tiger – Aye

Councilmember Virello – Aye

Councilmember Ward - Aye

Resolved that the Town Board of the Town of Hillsdale, on behalf of our community members, do hereby state that Hillsdale reaffirms our commitment to a status of inclusion for all races, religions, nationalities, gender identities, sexual orientation, economic statuses and political affiliations; and on behalf of all residents of the Town of Hillsdale we maintain our position that violence of any kind is unacceptable and condemn any act of aggression, hostility or violence against any member of our community based upon race, religion, nationality, gender identity, sexual orientation, economic status or political affiliation.

Engineering Report. Supervisor Kersten

Creighton is assessing Whippoorwill Road intersection. A report is expected soon. There is a Streetscape group which is meeting this Thursday with the Engineer to consider plans for Anthony, Maple and Cold Water streets.

Grants. The Supervisor has not received a monthly report from Victor Cornelius. He stated that at the next Board meeting the Board will need to conder whether or how Victor’s service should continue. After three years, with no Grants received, the Board needs to consider the best course of action. This represents a significant investment on the part of the Town. This will be discussed further at the next Board meeting.

Resolution #20. Acceptance of Contributions to the Town

1. HECD, to the Town of Hillsdale, \$3,361.52 to support JAMS Concert series. Total expenses for JAMS in the Hamlet, \$8,608.60. Prior HECD contributions, \$5,247.08 leaving a balance owing to the Town of \$3,361.52.
2. HECD, to the Town of Hillsdale, \$434.86 to reimburse the Town for non-JAMS

- event expenses.
3. HECD, to the Town of Hillsdale, \$8,336.22 to reimburse the Town for roof repairs in Roe Jan Park.
 4. Jean Stanhope, to the Town of Hillsdale in the amount of \$100 for Roe Jan Park.

Steve Tiger asked what expenses were non-JAMS. The Supervisor replied it is the printing of maps and postcards, and for trash cans. Rather than non-JAMS, it is General.

On a motion by Councilmember Robina Ward and seconded by Councilmember Joanna Virello to accept the above contributions to the Town.

Adopted Vote

Ayes – 5

Nays – 0

Resolved to accept the above contributions to the Town.

The Supervisor stated that last month a number of particularly inappropriate emails were sent among elected officials. He said he knows that all of us are doing our best for the Town. Sometimes under stressful circumstances. But we all need to be accorded respect. We will benefit from a professional approach to our work and how we express ourselves. It's the beginning of a new year and I hope we can turn a new leaf and operate in a mutually respectful way.

Resolution #21. Pay Bills, Abstract #12

On a motion by Tom Carty and seconded by Steve Tiger to pay the bills as presented.

General	\$ 12,892.25
Highway	32,532.67
Parks	10,318.15
Sewer	396.24
Lighting	0.00
Capital	0.00

Adopted Vote:

Ayes – 5

Nays – 0

Resolved to pay the bills as presented

Adjourn Meeting

On a motion by Steve Tiger and seconded by Tom Carty to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 pm.

Motion Vote:

Ayes – 5

Nays – 0

Motion Carried

The next Town Board meeting will be Tuesday, January 11, 2021 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathi Doolan, Town Clerk

