



**TOWN OF HILLSDALE
BOARD MEETING
August 09, 2022**

A regular meeting of the Hillsdale Town Board was held on Tuesday, August 9, 2022 at 7:00 pm in the Hillsdale Town Hall 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; Richard Briggs, Highway Superintendent; Matt Cabral, Town Attorney; Meg Wormley, Gretchen Stevens, Howard VanLenten, Toby Butterfield, Mike Dvorchak and two other members of the public.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Supervisor Kersten followed by a moment of silence.

Resolution #70. Accept Minutes of the July 12, 2022 Regular Town Board meeting.

On a motion by Councilmember Tom Carty and seconded by Councilmember Steve Tiger to accept the Minutes of the July 12, 2022 Town Board meeting

Adopted Vote

Ayes – 4

Nays - 0

Abstain – 1, Councilmember Robina Ward

Resolved to accept the Minutes of the July 12, 2022 Regular Town Board meeting

Resolution #71. Accept Minutes of the July 20, 2022 Special Town Board Meeting.

On a motion by Councilmember Steve Tiger and seconded by Councilmember Tom Carty to accept the Minutes of the July 20, 2022 Special Meeting

Adopted Vote

Ayes – 4

Nays - 0

Abstain – 1, Councilmember Robina Ward

Resolved to accept the Minutes of the July 20, 2022 Special Town Board Meeting.

Supervisor's Report – Supervisor Chris Kersten reported he had deposited some major checks since the last meeting: \$ 130,118.72 in sales tax receipts

42,113.76 in mortgage tax receipts

92,409.97 in ARPA funds

16,494.11 in tobacco settlement funds

The Town continuing to be in a good financial position at this time.

- Beginning the process of planning the 2023 Budget. Requests from Department and program heads to be provided by September 1.
- Housing. The County received a report from the March 30 Housing Forum which included recommendations that a county-wide Affordable Housing Task Force be convened with a professional staff to help guide the efforts. The Tri-Town Housing Task Force will meet August 16 to hear from a developer specializing in affordable housing. Mike Borges, Executive Director of the Rural Housing Coalition of New York and a former colleague of the Supervisor, will discuss how his organization can help in their work. The town of Hillsdale continues to seek land on which to build affordable housing.
- County-wide reported COVID cases continue to be in the low-risk category. On August 4, the County administered 30 of 40 available Monkeypox vaccinations at the Columbia-Greene Community College.

Highway Superintendent – Richard Briggs. With the assistance of Copake and Ancram, the CHIPS seal project has been completed. On March 31, the price of oil for the project was quoted at \$114,552.00; on June 29, \$131,850.00; the actual cost was \$147,384.00. The crew has been mowing some of the back roads with the new mower. Several storms have left trees down with the dry weather uprooting trees. Residents who see downed trees should call the Highway Department. The crew assisted Copake with and Ancram with their CHIP-sealing projects, the three towns sharing resources. The pick-up ordered last year should be delivered this week.

Town Clerk – Kathi Doolan. Continued requests for Genealogy reports. Marriage licenses increasing with a total of 13 this year to date versus 11 for the full year of 2021. Dog Control Officer's report – report of a missing shepherd mix, found by owner; sighting of two stray dogs on Hunt Road; two missing yellow labs on Route 22, found by owner.

Deputy Town Clerk Elizabeth Sheer and Tod Wohlfarth are working with the company, Town Web, to update the website and make it easier to navigate.

Fire District – Joe Hanselman, Jr. Not in attendance.

Tax Collector – Joe Hanselman, Jr. Not in attendance.

Public Comments – None.

Sewer District – Supervisor Kersten. The Wastewater plant averaged 9,100 gallons per day in July compared to 8,600 in June. The system is operating normally and efficiently. The Supervisor had an in-person meeting with business leaders in the Hamlet with a sharing of thoughts and ideas. Not too much detail was covered. The Sewer audit

commissioned by the Board, covering 2014 - 2020 will be completed by mid-September helping the Town move forward with solutions to the debt.

The Town accountant reports a lag in Sewer rent payments. Some residents wait and have it added to their Tax bill at the end of the year.

The \$30,000 annual Sewer Bond payment was able to be made by August 1 without having to borrow from the General Fund.

Town Board Reports.

Human Resources – Steve Tiger. Working on negotiations with the Teamsters for the Highway Department. There will be an Executive Session following this meeting.

Infrastructure – Robina Ward. Planning to get the radiator replaced in the Court Clerk's office this month.

The Supervisor added that Lee Heim, Building Inspector, is getting estimates to replace the gutters and additional work on the roof.

Roe Jan Park– Joanna Virello received a report from Joe Raco, Camp Director, saying the Summer Youth program was filled with community and small business support. Donations include \$350.00 from the West Copake Church; \$500.00 from the Hudson PBA; tuition, field trip assistance and a golf program from the HECD; ice pops, six weeks of pizza, a tether ball game, a parachute game and others. For next year he'd like the Board to consider adding a bathroom in the upper barn and an additional area for campers to change clothes. Joanna is suggesting better signage for the youth program.

Committee Reports

Economic Development – Tom Carty. The committee publicized the Hillsdale Civic Pride project on the fund-raising page on the Town website and the newsletter. Gifts are coming in. For the mural project, \$5,000 is budgeted and they have received \$4,750.00. There are plans for two new Hamlet signs, Green River and Harlemville. Tod Wohlfarth is producing a design to be presented at the September Town Board meeting. The Kidsdale event was a success.

Safe at Home – not in attendance.

CAC – Supervisor Kersten reported Local Law #2 for the NRI has been amended following review by the Planning Board. The attorney prepared an initial draft and referred it to the Planning Board who accepted it as a planning document to *recommend* its use but not *mandate* its use. It is accepted as an official document of the Town and its use is encouraged. A Public Hearing will be scheduled at 6:40 pm ahead of the September 13 Town Board meeting for review.

Motion. On a motion by Joanna Virello and seconded by Tom Carty to hold a Public Hearing on Local Law #2 for the NRI on September 13, 2022 at 6:40 pm in advance of the regularly scheduled Board Meeting.

Motion Vote

Ayes – 5

Nays – 0

Motion Carried

Hamlet. Robina Ward reported she received Event forms from the Event coordinator, Gaye Hoffman. Projects include a Reptile Rescue, Bouncey House, Scarecrow. Ads for the Shoppers Guide, miscellaneous supplies, tents, etc, estimate expenditures at \$2,925.00. Funds will come from the Celebrations account \$830.00, the Hillsdale Committee account, \$750.00, and donations from the Car Show.

Motion. On a motion by Tom Carty and seconded by Joanna Virello to move the Hamlet committee events and move the budget for the events

Motion Vote:

Ayes – 5

Nays – 0

Motion Carried.

Highway Superintendent Richard Briggs added the Highway crew will be replacing black top on White Hill Lane, near Herrington's. Catch basins for the water run-off are being replaced. The road is being worked on in sections and will be partially relocated due to a new structure going in next year.

Public Comments – None.

Continuing/New Business.

Grants/Engineering.

Whippoorwill Road. The Supervisor reported the DOT had responded to previous requests to make the intersection of Whippoorwill Road and Route 22 safer. He forwarded the DOT's comments to the Board. Although they replace the four intersection signs, they removed the Dangerous Intersection sign saying it was not a recognized sign. The Highway Superintendent did not know it was removed. The DOT does not support the placement of extra pavement on the Southwest corner of the road and will not install a flashing beacon. Discussion.

The Town Attorney suggested taking their suggestions to the Town Engineer, Creighton Manning, and investigate options. The Supervisor will send the DOT letter and the Engineering report to the attorney for review.

Hamlet Park. The consolidated funding application for the GiGP and State Parks grants is completed and submitted by the deadline. The applications are based on the master plan and feasibility study prepared by Chazen, now called LaBella. The outcome is expected in December.

West End Bridge. The Supervisor, Tom, and Robina met with Victor Cornelius to discuss the grant application to Bridge New York. They had subsequent meetings with the County Commissioner of Public Works who agreed to provide additional engineering studies for the report. Bridge New York has not yet released the guidelines or submission deadline.

Video Conferencing. The Town Attorney, Matt Cabral, explained the State's revision to the open meetings law for Towns to take advantage of video conferencing. This allows for the Board to meet in a public space. The Public can join remotely. In extraordinary circumstances this enables a Board member to meet virtually.

The Supervisor stated the Town does not have the technology and is recommending a a

device called the Owl. The Owl is like a tower that follows sound and is currently being used by the County. The cost is \$999.00. Joe Vining, the Town's technology consultant, can make the connections to make it functional for approximately \$400.00. The cost to the Town would be \$1400.00 - \$1500.00. A screen is necessary to be able to share documents. The attorney suggested setting that up initially and Board can attend virtually. Discussion. The Attorney stated this is enabling legislation. It is not an obligation to share both options at meetings.

Motion. On a motion by Councilmember Robina Ward and seconded by Councilmember Joanna Virello to add a Public Hearing at 6:50 pm September 13, 2022 for the proposed Local Law to allow Video Conferencing at Board meetings prior to the Town Board meeting at 7:00 pm.

Motion Vote

Ayes – 5

Nays – 0

Motion Carried

Acceptance of Contributions

HECDC – Reimbursement for RJ Park Community Garden expenses, \$1,844.32

HECDC – Reimbursement for RJ Park mower, \$10,151.68

Roe Jan Lockworks – Gift of Sunwood Sports Premium Tetherball Set, in kind.

Hudson Police Benevolent Association – for support of Summer program field trip/equipment, \$500.00

Steve Tiger asked if there is a policy regarding Gifts. The Attorney replied it is in the Committee policy regarding a procedure.

The procedure is that Gifts are brought before a Town Board meeting, the Board decides whether to accept it and it is noted in the Minutes. The Board needs to be mindful if they are donor-specified gifts.

Resolution #72. Accept four individual donations for the Roe Jan Park:

HECDC - \$ 1,844.32

HECDC - \$10,151.68

RoeJan Lockworks – Premium Tetherball Set, in kind

Hudson Police Benevolen Association, \$500.00

On a motion by Joanna Virello and seconded by Robina Ward to accept the above four donations for the Roe Jan Park.

Adopted Vote:

Ayes – 5

Nays- 0

Resolved to accept four individual donations for the Roe Jan Park

Resolution #73. Pay Bills, Abstract dated August 15, 2022. The Board has approved the Abstracts for the following:

General	\$ 24,587.54
Highway	228,573.08
Sewer	50.29
Parks	1,850.21
Lighting	0.00
Capital Fund	0.00

Resolution #74. Pay Bills, Abstract dated August 30, 2022. The Board has approved the Abstracts for the following:

General	\$ 12,635.59
Highway	14,353.28
Sewer	432.59
Parks	0.00
Lighting	0.00
Capital Fund	2,700.00
Custodial Fund	369.00

Executive Session.

Motion. On a motion by Steve Tiger and seconded by Tom Carty to move into Executive Session at 8:07 pm to discuss collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of Executive Sessions Law. Richard Briggs and Matt Cabral in attendance with the Board.

Motion Vote:

Ayes – 5

Nays – 0

Motion Carried.

Motion. On a motion by Joanna Virello and seconded by Steve Tiger to leave the Executive Session at 8:27 pm

Ayes – 5

Nays - 0

Motion Carried

Motion. Adjourn Meeting. On a motion by Tom Carty and seconded by Steve Tiger to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 pm:

Motion Vote

Ayes – 5

Nays - 0

Motion Carried

The next Town Board meeting will be Tuesday, September 13, 2022 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathi Doolan, Town Clerk

