



**TOWN OF HILLSDALE  
BOARD MEETING  
July 12, 2022**

A regular meeting of the Hillsdale Town Board was held on Tuesday, July, 12, 2022 at 7:00 pm in the Hillsdale Town Hall with the following members

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Supervisor	Chris Kersten
	Councilmember	Tom Carty
	Councilmember	Steve Tiger
	Councilmember	Joanna Virello
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Councilmember	Robina Ward

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Kathi Doolan, Town Clerk; Elizabeth Sheer, Deputy Town Clerk; Richard Briggs, Highway Superintendent; Joe Hanselman Jr., Meg Wormley, Gretchen Stevens, Howard VanLenten,

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

**Resolution #65. Accept Minutes.** On a motion by Councilperson Tom Carty and seconded by Councilperson Steve Tiger to accept the Minutes of the June 14 Town Board meeting

**Adopted Vote**

Ayes – 4

Nays - 0

Absent - 1

**Resolved to accept the minutes of the June 14 Town Board meeting.**

**Supervisor’s Report** – Supervisor Chris Kersten began by thanking the Board for approving a special Resolution in honor of decorated WW11 Veteran Ernie Santoro on the occasion of his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday and the parade in his honor. He also thanked Lauren Letellier, the Hillsdale Fire Department, the VFW and others who organized the event.

- County News. 31% decrease in mortgage tax receipts for May to mid-June compared to last year at this time. County Treasurer, P.J. Keeler, describes the major reason is a huge sales tax distribution reconciliation with New York City. The Town will be examining the budget in response. Supervisor Kersten and the Town’s accountant believe that Hillsdale continues to be well positioned and will proceed with caution.

- Allocation of \$11,549,602 in ARPA funds is being actively discussed at the County level. Funds must be allocated by December 31,2024 and spent by December 31,2026. Hillsdale should be receiving its final tranche this month.
- Covid. County remains in a low-risk category. The Department of Public Health is watching the rapid growth of the latest Omicron variant BA-5, a strain that is prominent in New York City and appears to be more contagious and more virulent.
- The Supervisor reported he has met with Assemblymember Didi Barrett several times at her request to brief her on the Town's issues and priorities. He believes she will be a strong advocate in moving the Town's needs forward.
- Propose Local Law to make meetings more accessible to the Public. Attorney to address this issue under New Business

**Highway Superintendent** – Richard Briggs. Mowing, completing drainage, Chip-sealing roads. Still waiting to order the new pick-up truck. There is an increase in price of \$32,000 versus last year's estimate.

**Resolution #67. Authorize an increase for the additional expense to purchase a new pick-up truck for the Highway Department.**

On a motion by Councilmember Steve Tiger and seconded by Councilmember Tom Carty to authorize an increase of the previously approved amount of \$218,793 to \$254,021 to purchase a new pick-up truck.

**Adopted Vote**

Ayes – 4

Nays – 0

Absent – 1

**Resolved to authorize an increase for the additional expense to purchase a new pick-up truck.**

**Fire District** – Joe Hanselman, Jr. The Fire company has received 58 calls to date; eight in June and four in July.

**Tax Collector** – Joe Hanselman, Jr. has finalized the returns with the County. Penalties and interest since February will produce \$7500 for the Town.

**Town Clerk** – Kathi Doolan. Busy with marriage licenses, genealogy requests, dog licenses. Several questions about noise ordinances. Suggested the Board address this issue in the future. Joanna stated at Taconic Ridge, an event venue, the noise stops at 10:00 pm. The Attorney offered that often a designated time is part of a Site Plan review. There is nothing on the books for the Town.

Steve Tiger said ordinances have been brought up in the past and should look at it again. Dog report. The Dog Control Officer reported two entries. Stray German Shepherd on 23 near Four Brothers Restaurant. Stray pit-bull on Tribrook Rd. Owner found.

**Public Comments** – None.

**Sewer District** – Supervisor Kersten. The System is operating in normal range. The audit of income and expenditures between 2014 and 2020 is proceeding. All of the records are in order. All the documents are in place. A report is expected by August or

early September.

Annual bond payment of \$30,000 is due August 1. The Sewer fund balance is currently \$28,030. Third quarter billings are going out this week with payments presumed to come in to cover this obligation.

**Resolution # 68. Authorize a short-term loan of \$5,000 to the Sewer fund from the General fund.**

On a motion by Councilmember Tom Carty and seconded by Councilmember Joanna Virello to authorize a short-term loan of \$5,000 to the Sewer fund from the General Fund to be repaid as soon as funds are available.

**Adopted Vote**

Ayes – 4

Nays – 0

Absent – 1

**Resolved to authorize a short-term loan of \$5,000 to the Sewer fund from the General fund.**

**Town Board Reports.**

**Human Resources** - Steve Tiger held a sexual harassment and bullying prevention training on June 27 for the Summer camp counselors. He is in preparation for negotiations with the Teamsters for the Highway Department.

**Infrastructure** – Robina Ward. Not in attendance. Listening on the phone. The Supervisor reported the new chiller has been installed.

**Roe Jan Park** –Joanna Virello. The Community Garden is in bloom. Vegetables are being donated to the Food Pantry. Camp started July 11. The Town Clerk added that Director Joe Raco reported there are still two openings for campers.

**Motion. 5-K Run, Dollars for Scholars, Taconic Hills school.**

On a motion by Joanna Virello and seconded by Steve Tiger to authorize a 5-K run in the Park on September 24 for Remember the Titans scholarship.

**Motion Vote**

Ayes – 4

Nays – 0

Absent – 1

**Motion Carried**

**Committee reports.**

**Economic Development** – Joanna Virello. Kisdale, a free concert for children, to be held July 16 in the Hamlet Park. The Fire Department will be serving hot dogs and hamburgers. There will be either a Raffle or a Treasure Hunt. The budget is up-to-date. Permits are on the way.

The Supervisor asked about the equipment and inventory from Jams in the Hamlet which needs to be stored in the Barn. Joanna replied she believes it is in the Barn. She will check and confirm.

**Climate Smart** – Howard VanLenten. Because the Town has conducted the community

solar campaign, it is eligible for a \$5,000 grant from NYSERDA. September 22 is the final date to apply for the grant which can be for any energy-related project.

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**CAC** – Attorney Matt Cabral stated that the Planning Board discussed the proposed local law and review process for the NRI booklet. Of the five members, two were opposed; three were in favor and felt it was a useful tool. They prefer the local law state that it *may* be used, not *must* be used, as a planning tool. The Planning Board Chair will be sending a report to the Board. David Ruede asked for background information. Gretchen Stevens explained that the NRI booklet was first published two years ago and proposed it would be included in a local law adopted as a Town document. The local law was proposed at last month’s Board meeting and will be reviewed at the Board meeting in August and then be subject to a Public Hearing.

**Public Comments** – David Ruede commented he felt it made sense and protects liability. Jamie Carano questioned the authority of the Town Board versus the Planning Board. The Supervisor and the Town Attorney responded. The Code requires the Planning Board to provide a report. The Town Board has the legislative authority. It is not bound by the opinion of the Planning Board.

**Grants Update and Engineering** – Supervisor Kersten.

**Whippoorwill Road.** The Town is working with the Engineering company Creighton Manning seeking solutions for the dangerous intersection of Whippoorwill Road and Route 22. They’ve written to the DOT and received a response saying “your project has been assigned to the regional traffic and safety group for review. Please be assured the NYSDOT will investigate the concerns you have raised.”

**Hamlet Park.** The Grant writer with LaBella Chazen is working toward a July 30 deadline to file a GIGP and State Parks grant. Updated costs and comments are under consideration.

The total project cost is an estimated \$1.7 million. The GIGP grant is \$750,000 and the State Parks grant is \$500,000. The town match is \$450,000. That amount is in the General budget.

**Resolution #66. Demonstrating Support and Authorizing a Request for Funds for Planned Investment and Revitalization of Hamlet Park**

On a motion by Steve Tiger and seconded by Joanna Virello to support the request of funds from OPRHP and GIGP, pledge its financial support for the planned improvements, and authorize and direct the Supervisor to submit the application through the CFA process and to act in connection with the submission of the application, including execution of all required certifications and forms and to provide such additional information as may be required.

**Adopted Vote**

Ayes – 4

Nays – 0

Absent – 1

**Resolved to demonstrate support and authorize a request for Funds for Planned Investment and Revitalization of Hamlet Park.**

**West End Bridge.** Victor Cornelius asked the Town engineers for additional documentation and support in advance of writing the Bridge New York grant due in

October.

The engineer has consulted with other professionals and firms and believes sufficient and significant information is contained in their earlier report. The Supervisor stated he has asked the County Commissioner for Public Works for his thoughts and opinion.

**Street Lights** – Tom Carty. Waiting for the new President of NYSEG to sign the bill of sale from the Town in order to proceed with the Street Lights project.

Once the Town buys them, NYPA has to install them. Tom stated he believes they will be installed this Summer.

Solar panels will be installed on the Highway garage the first week in August.

Once they are installed, NYSEG has to switch the meter from NYSEG to the individual Solar panels. Tom anticipates getting this done in the next three weeks.

**Request from Roe Jan Library for use of large tent for an event August 14.**

**Motion.** On a motion by Steve Tiger and seconded by Joanna Virello to authorize the use of the Town's large tent for an event they are having August 14.

**Motion Vote**

Ayes – 4

Nays – 0

Absent – 1

**Motion Carried**

The Town Attorney addressed the question of the amendments to the Open meetings law allowing for Virtual meetings. The Town would need to adopt a Local law to expand the use of video conferencing. There are hybrid arrangements where members of the public can videoconference in to a public meeting. There are technological hurdles. Under current rules the Town would need to notice the video location and be open to the public. The attorney will create a local law for the Board to consider at the next meeting.

**Resolution #69. Pay Bills, Abstract #7 dated June 20, 2022. The Board has approved the Abstracts for the following:**

General	\$ 3,035.14
Highway	6,623.85
Sewer	2,401.54
Parks	2,279.18
Lighting	0.00
Capital Fund	0.00

**Pay Bills, Abstract # 7 dated July 5, 2022. The Board has approved the Abstracts for the following:**

General	\$ 7,626.74
Highway	3118.20
Sewer	31,125.03
Parks	69.37
Lighting	0.00
Capital Fund	38,170.00

**Adjourn Meeting.** On a motion by Tom Carty and seconded by Steve Tiger to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 pm:

**Motion Vote**

Ayes – 4

Nays - 0

Absent – 1

**Motion carried.**

The next Town Board meeting will be Tuesday, August 9, 2022 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathi Doolan, Town Clerk