



**TOWN OF HILLSDALE
TOWN BOARD MEETING
September 13, 2022**

A regular meeting of the Hillsdale Town Board was held on Tuesday, September 13, 2022 at 6:55 pm in the Hillsdale Town Hall with the following members present:

PRESENT:	Supervisor	Chris Kersten
	Councilmember	Tom Carty
	Councilmember	Steve Tiger
	Councilmember	Joanna Virello
ABSENT:	Councilmember	Robina Ward

OTHERS PRESENT: Kathi Doolan, Town Clerk; Elizabeth Sheer, Deputy Town Clerk; Matt Cabral, Town Attorney; Meg Wormley, Howard VanLenten, David Ruede and two other members of the public.

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

Resolution #75. Accept Minutes of the August 9, 2022 Regular Town Board meeting. On a motion by Councilmember Steve Tiger and seconded by Councilmember Tom Carty to accept the Minutes of the August 9, 2022 Town Board meeting

Adopted Vote

Ayes – 4

Nays - 0

Resolved to accept the Minutes of the August 9, 2022 Regular Town Board meeting

Supervisor’s Report – Supervisor Kersten reported on the following projects:

- 2023 Budget. A tentative budget will be ready at the end of September. Public Budget Workshops will be scheduled for October 12, 13 and 17 at 6:00 pm.
- Teamster’s. The Town is in contract negotiations with Teamster’s Local 294 for Highway employees. The contract will be for three years, 2023 – 2025.
- Sewer audit. The audit, commissioned by the Board for 2014 – 2020 will be available to discuss its findings at the October Board meeting
- Engineering and Grant opportunities will be discussed later in the agenda.

- The application for the Grant requests through the NYS Consolidated Funding program discussed during the August Board meeting is available for review.
- County Board of Supervisors approved the 2023 Columbia-Greene Community College budget in the amount of \$19,128,307. Columbia County's share of this budget is \$3,545,974. Greene County's share is \$2,902,376. The balance is made up of tuition and fees, State and Federal allocation and contract, gifts, and grants.
- The Board of Supervisors also approved fee increases for solid waste disposal .

Highway Superintendent - not in attendance, working on a downed tree. Councilmember Steve Tiger gave Richard's report.

- The blacktop work on White Hill Road near Herrington's completed under budget.
- Working with fire district to fix a dry hydrant on Old Town Road.
- Several downed trees because of the storm

Town Clerk - Kathi Doolan. Four marriage licenses in August and one to date in September total 17 this year compared to 11 for all of 2021. The Clerk thought she received an email from Richard Briggs stating he was having trouble with his account information on record and wanted to replace it with a new one. It referred to this week's direct deposit. Although it showed it was from Richard Briggs, it was not from his address. It was spam. Be aware if unusual requests. The Court Clerk is no longer providing Notary services.

A limited number of Covid tests are available.

Dog Control Officer Kyle Miller reported two stray dogs attacking and killing five goats on East Hill Lane. Loose German Shepherd with green collar seen on Route 23 near Four Brothers. No further sighting. Missing black male long-haired chihuahua on Harlemville Road. No reported sightings. Attack on a dog by two German Shepherds on Lockwood Road. Owner of the victim's dog wished to press charges. Kyle will follow up.

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

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

Public Comments – None.

Sewer District – Supervisor Kersten. The system continues to operate well, averaging 10,000 gallons per day in August. The budget is stable. The Sewer audit commissioned by the Board, is in the final stages of preparation and should be ready for discussion at the October meeting.

Town Board Reports.

Human Resources – Steve Tiger. Working on negotiations with the Teamsters for the Highway Department and making progress.

Infrastructure – Robina Ward. Not in attendance.

Roe Jan Park– Joanna Virello reported Joe Raco is organizing a 5-K run at the park with Taconic Hills school. The Park coordinator.

Meghan McCann is asking whether the Town will charge the Roe Jan Library fees for events in 2023. The fees have been waived during Covid. Steve Tiger suggested the Town review the fees as part of the budget process. Meg Wormley offered if the Town charges, the Library will probably not be able to pay.

Committee Reports

Economic Development – Tom Carty asked Joanna Virello to report on the mural for the back wall of the IGA. A sketch is being designed to share with the Town Board. They hope to complete the project this year. The committee is also working on a house tour.

Hamlet - Tom Carty reported the plans for the Pumpkin Festival are moving forward.

Safe at Home – not in attendance.

Public Comments – David Ruede asked about about the Historical marker South of Town on Route 22 that is down. Steve Tiger said he would talk to the Highway Superintendent about resetting it.

Continuing/New Business.

Local Local Law #3 - NRI to be considered at the October Board meeting.

Resolution #76. Local Law #2 of 2022. Amending the Code of the Town of Hillsdale, Chapter 245 (Zoning), Article V111 (Supplemental Regulations) to add a new section 245—60 (Natural Resource Inventory)

On a motion by Councilmember Tom Carty and seconded by Councilmember Steve Tiger to adopt Local Law #2 of 2022. Adopted Vote

Ayes - 4

Nays - 0

Resolved to adopt Local Law #2 of 2022 amending the Code of the Town of Hillsdale, Chapter 245 (Zoning), Article V111 (Supplemental Regulations) to add a new section 245-60 (Natural Resource Inventory).

The Supervisor stated that the cost of The Owl for videoconferencing is \$999.00. The estimate from Joe Vining, the IT consultant, for installation is an additional \$2,343.59 estimated at \$3,433.40. ARPA funds are available for this so there is no impact on the budget. Steve Tiger asked if this has to be put out to bid. The attorney replied that since this is a discretionary purchase, no.

Resolution #77. Authorize expenditures for equipment and installation for video conferencing through ARPA funds.

On a motion by Joanna Virello and seconded by Councilmember Tom Carty **Adopted Vote**

Ayes – 4

Nays - 0

Resolved to authorize expenditures for equipment and installation for video conferencing through ARPA funds.

Town Court – Justice Russ Immarigeon requested an increase in Court Clerk’s hours. Currently 14 hours per week, requesting 20 hours. The Supervisor replied this is part of the Budget discussion to be held in October.

Solar – Tom Carty. The Solar panel installation has begun on the Highway Garage and will be finished by the end of this week. A connection to NYSEG is necessary to be functional and that is scheduled.

Grants/Engineering. Supervisor Kersten.

Hamlet Park. As of July 30, Grant requests are pending and will learn the outcome in December.

The Town’s submission is available for anyone to review.

Streetscape - Sidewalks for Anthony, Maple and Cold Water streets. The Town has not heard whether a NYSDOT-TAP Grant will be offered this year.

The NYS Park – Recreational Trails program is not available this year. It is usually offered every other year.

West End Bridge – Currently pending a 2023 submission to Senator Schumer for \$576,000 requiring a 10% match.

The Town is pursuing a major BridgeNY Grant. The guidelines are expected in October. In preparation for the proposal submission, the Board was sent two SEQRA forms (Part 1 and Part 2) for approval.

These are Short Environmental Assessment forms that state the project environmental impacts are minimal.

Resolution #78. Approve the short environment forms (SEQR part 1 and part 2) and issue a negative declaration of no significant impact as part of the submission grant to Senator Schumer’s GrantsNY for \$576,000 for the Grant to fund the West End Bridge project.

On a motion by Councilmember Steve Tiger and seconded by Councilmember Tom Carty to approve the SEQR short forms part 1 and to make a negative declaration of no significant impact on the environment, Part 3.

Adopted Vote

Ayes – 4

Nays - 0

Resolved to approve the short environment forms (SEQR part 1) and make a declaration of no significant impact on the environment, Part 3.

Resolution #79. Approve proposal from CPL to review the condition of the buildings, Town Hall, Sheriff’s Substation and Highway Garage and determine repairs.

On a motion by Councilmember Joanna Virello and seconded by Councilmember Tom Carty to approve the proposal from CPL to review the condition of the buildings, Town Hall, Sheriff’s Substation and Highway Garage and determine repairs.

Adopted Vote

Ayes – 4

Nays – 0

Resolved to approve proposal from CPL to review the condition of the building, Town Hall, Sheriff’s Substation and Highway Garage to determine repairs.

Resolution #80 Pay Bills. Abstract dated September 10, 2022 and Abstract dated September 26, 2022. The Board has approved the Abstracts for the following:

Abstract dated September 10, 2022

General \$ 8,774.57

Abstract dated September 26, 2022

General \$ 9,788.94

Highway 6,480.62

Sewer 135.00

Parks 871.40

Lighting 0.00

Capital Fund 3,750.00

Executive Session.

Motion. On a motion by Steve Tiger and seconded by Tom Carty to move into Executive Session at 7:56 pm to discuss collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of Executive Sessions Law.

Motion Vote:

Ayes – 4

Nays – 0

Motion Carried.

Motion. On a motion by Steve Tiger and seconded by Joanna Virello to leave the Executive Session at 8:20 pm

Ayes – 4

Nays - 0

Motion Carried

Motion. Adjourn Meeting. On a motion by Steve Tiger and seconded by Joanna Virello to adjourn the Town Board meeting at 8:21 pm.

Motion Vote

Ayes – 4

Nays - 0

Motion Carried

The next Town Board meeting will be Tuesday, October 11, 2022 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathi Doolan, Town Clerk