



TOWN OF HILLSDALE
TOWN BOARD MEETING
December 12, 2022

A regular meeting of the Hillsdale Town Board was held on Tuesday, January 10, 2022 at 7:00 pm in the Hillsdale Town Hall with the following members present:

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; Richard Briggs, Highway Superintendent; Joe Hanselman Jr., Tax Collector, Fire Deputy, Meg Wormley, Matthew White, Carano, Dan Leby, Bart Ziegler Mike Dvorchak, Jamie Carano, Brandon Lentine, and other members of the public.

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

Supervisor's Report – Supervisor Kersten began by thanking and recognizing the Board, the Deputy Supervisor Tom Carty, the staff and the committees for their hard work in ensuring another successful year for the town of Hillsdale in 2022.

- Reevaluate Town properties. The Assessor, Pam Cook, suggested the Board consider a revaluation of Town properties in 2023 which is done in collaboration with the town of Austerlitz. Supervisor Kersten discussed this with Supervisor Rob Lagonia, of Austerlitz, to discuss a strategy. Both decided to defer an assessment at this time.
- Grants. A decision on the Hamlet Park proposal is due this month. The Bridge New York proposal, announced on November 10, and due on January 20 is being worked on with Victor Cornelius.
- Five (5)-year plan to repair Town buildings. A workshop is scheduled on December 20 with CPL, the town engineer, for a discussion of recommendations for priority repairs of the Town Hall, Sheriff's sub-station and the Highway Garage. CPL's priority recommendations total \$238,998. The Board will make a decision regarding encumbering funds for a range of projects.
- Debt repayment to the Sewer District of \$199,000.

- Sewer audit was performed by the Town's accountant and approved by the Board at the October meeting. The Supervisor stated he is reviewing various options to develop and implement a repayment plan with Town attorney Matt Cabral to reduce the impact on district users of the system. The attorney is reviewing a range of legal matters. The Board and the Public will be advised as soon as a viable plan emerges.

Highway Superintendent - Richard Briggs not in attendance.

The Supervisor reported Richard is asking the Board to consider approving the purchase of a John Deere Planetary Drive Auger at \$4,022.51 and a John Deere Hydraulic Hammer at \$13,856.73. The total purchase price is \$17,879.24. Both items have been pre-bid under state contract and the funds are available in the Highway equipment account. The formal bids have been shared with the Board.

Resolution #94. Approve the purchase of two items for the Highway Department.

On a motion by Councilmember Robina Ward and seconded by Councilmember Joanna Virello to approve the purchase of two items for the Highway Department in the total amount of \$17,879.24

Adopted Vote

Ayes – 4

Nays – 0

Absent – 1

Resolved to approve the purchase of two items for the Highway Department in the amount of \$17,879.24.

Robina Ward reported that Richard asked her to include additional activity by the Highway Department. They have finished brush cutting and sweeping the leaves. They have a position to fill which could be full or part-time. There is no parking on the South side of Cold Water Street because when it snows, the plow cannot get through.

Town Clerk - Kathi Doolan. November was the deadline for fourth quarter sewer payments. A letter was enclosed with the fourth quarter bill stating payments needed to be received by November 11. Payments were collected from all but 15 homeowners, similar to past years. Those names were forwarded to the County and the balance due is added to their tax bill which comes out in January.

The office responded to a large request from the Climate Smart Committee with information needed to create an inventory of the Greenhouse gases produced by the town of Hillsdale. The Deputy made copies of invoices going back as far as 2014.

Marriage license #22 was issued to the Supervisor's daughter Hilary Kersten and James Cicalo. This number represents double the number issued last year and a record number over time.

The shredding bins were in Town Hall for two weeks and picked up December 9 completely full. The program will be back next year with bins arriving in March. 2023 Recycling Stickers for Columbia County Transfer Stations are available in Town Hall. The annual cost is \$50.00 or \$35.00 for Seniors.

The Dog Control Officer reported one entry for last month's report. A stray Australian shepherd was seen on Lockwood Road. The finder was unable to catch the dog and there have been no further reports.

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

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

Sewer District – Supervisor Kersten stated the District averaged 12,000 gallons a day in November, up slightly from the 10,000 in October. The Sewer budget for the year is at 98% in income and 82% for expenses. As of November 30, the Town was carrying a surplus of \$16,049.91.

Town Board Reports:

Human Resources – Steve Tiger. Not in attendance.

Infrastructure – Robina Ward. Looking forward to the meeting on December 20th with the Engineers to discuss the priorities for building repairs. The Board will need to address the culvert repairs with the Tribrook bridge.

Roe Jan Park – Joanna Virello reported the Town Clerk called her on behalf of a resident asking about No Hunting signs in the Roe Jan Park. The resident was concerned about walking her dog when hearing shots in the distance. Discussion. There is no hunting in State parks. Joanna will order signage.

Committee Reports

Economic Development - Tom Carty reported Tod Wohlfarth and Elizabeth Sheer are working with Town Web for a redesign of the town's website. Elizabeth will send the Board the preliminary flow of information. It should be completed by mid-January. Tom also reported Jane Buck is working on the mural for the outside wall on the IGA and is expected to be finished by the beginning of Spring. It will be printed on either canvas or boards.

Joanna recommended the committee look into having a Farm tour.

LED lights. Installers had four lights left over from the recent installation and Tom found additional light poles for their use. Those were submitted to NYSEG to be part of the agreement. They were accepted.

Solar panels. There are two boxes of inverters in back of the Highway and one has failed. A new one has been ordered and should go in this week. An inspector from NYSERTA came and the inspection was good.

Safe at Home – Nothing to report.

Hamlet Committee - Robina Ward reported the committee had caught up with the balance of the billing for the Pumpkin Festival.

Resolution #95. Renewal of 2023 Columbia-Greene Humane Society Contract

On a motion by Councilmember Tom Carty and seconded by Councilmember Joanna Virello to accept the 2023 Columbia-Greene Humane Society Contract with the town of Hillsdale.

Adopted Vote

Ayes - 4

Nays - 0

Absent - 1

Resolved to accept the 2023 Columbia-Greene Humane Society Contract with the Town of Hillsdale

Resolution #96. Opposition Siting of Shepherd’s Run Solar Project with the Taghkanic Creek Watershed.

On a motion by Joanna Virello and seconded by Tom Carty to oppose the siting of Shepherd’s Run Solar Project within the Taghkanic Creek Watershed.

Adopted Vote

Ayes - 4

Nays - 0

Absent - 1

Resolved to Oppose the Siting of Shepherd’s Run Solar Project within the Taghkanic Creek Watershed.

The Supervisor and Board agreed to schedule the 2023 Organizational meeting Tuesday, January 3, 2023, at 4:00 pm preceded by a Sewer review with Attorney Matt Cabral at 3:00 pm.

Planning Board. Supervisor Kersten stated the Planning Board met December 12 and agreed to recommend Kyle McGraw to the seat vacated by Patti Rohrlich.

Motion. Approve the appointment of Kyle McGraw for a term of seven (7) years on the Planning Board.

On a motion by Tom Carty and seconded by Joana Virello to approve the appointment of Kyle McGraw for a term of seven (7) years on the Planning Board.

Motion Vote

Ayes - 4

Nays - 0

Absent- 1

Motion Carried

Richard Freiman’s term concludes the end of this month and the Planning Board has recommended his reappointment. The Planning Board Secretary will advertise the open seat and the Board will review again at the January meeting.

Robina Ward asked if Kyle McGraw owns property in Hillsdale. Although he has a city address, Joanna Virello replied he is building a house. Brandon Latine, a member of the Planning Board, added that Kyle has been coming to every Planning Board meeting and his house is soon to be completed.

A member of the public who asked to remain anonymous asked if the opportunity had been given to all the applicants and whether he had submitted his application “yesterday”. Elizabeth Sheer, Planning Board secretary, stated he submitted his application in September. Brandon Lentine responded Kyle applied months ago for the previous seat that was open. He was not appointed then because of the residency question. His resume includes extensive experience in planning. As a property owner, he is a resident. The interview last night was the scheduled interview for the current position. The Planning Board is scheduling interviews with other people who have showed interest for that alternate seat.

Robina suggested since there are alternate seats on both the Planning Board and the Zoning Board, the Town should run an ad for those seats.

Public Comments

Dan Levy asked why there are no trash bins in the Hamlet. Councilmember Ward replied the Town has no Department of Public Works. There is no one to collect them since Route 23 is a State road. It has been talked about in the business community.

Elizabeth Sheer commented that a resident had expressed interest in forming a committee to pick up trash. Robina responded there are groups that pick up trash around the Hamlet. The Hillsdale Democratic committee picks up trash between the two Welcome to Hillsdale signs on Route 23. It's not necessary to form a committee, a group can be set up to go out and collect the trash in any specified area.

Brandan Lentine asked if he could get on the list for a traffic radar signs to be positioned on West End Road near Texas Hill. The Supervisor replied that the signs are working to slow traffic and suggested he send a note to Richard Briggs, Highway Supervisor.

Resolution #97. Pay Bills. The Board has approved the Abstracts for the following:

Abstract dated November 14, 2022:

General	\$ 9,612.61
Highway	179,733.61
Sewer	105.13
Lighting	0.00
Parks	129.30
Capital Fund	1,250.00

Abstract dated November 30, 2022:

General	\$ 8,641.07
Highway	8,519.49
Sewer	40.50
Lighting	0.00
Parks	130.70
Capital Fund	1,250.00

Motion. Adjourn Meeting.

On a motion by Joanna Virello and seconded by Tom Carty to adjourn the Town Board meeting at 8:20pm.

Motion Vote

Ayes – 4

Nays - 0

Absent - 1

Motion Carried

The next Town Board meeting will be Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathi Doolan, Town Clerk

