



TOWN OF HILLSDALE
TOWN BOARD MEETING
May 9, 2023

A regular meeting of the Hillsdale Town Board was held on May 9, 2023 at 7:00 pm in the Hillsdale Town Hall and via Zoom with the following members present:

PRESENT: Supervisor Chris Kersten
Councilmember Tom Carty
Councilmember Steve Tiger
Councilmember Robina Ward was present via Zoom
Councilmember Joanna Virello was absent

OTHERS PRESENT: Elizabeth Sheer, Town Clerk; Meg Wormley, Jamie Carrano, David Ruede, Mike Nikosa, Marion Sobol and other members of the public.

Present via Zoom were Jonathan DiRocco of CPL, Irwin Feld, Bart Zeigler and other members of the public.

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

Public Comment:

Mike Nikosia commented on the migratory birds in Roe Jan Park. They are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty act, and he requested that the town not mow in the park while the birds are migrating.

Supervisor Kersten responded that this is a matter that must be reviewed by the Town Attorney since the terms of the Town's lease with the park must be honored.

Marian Sobol, from the Columbia County chapter of the Audobon Society, said that bobolinks are building nests in May, and they are the most vulnerable till the end of June. These birds build their nests in the long grass in the ground and are seriously affected by mowing. She added that the CAC is familiar with this issue.

Counter to the ordinary course of events, Supervisor Kersten asked Jonathan DiRocco of CPL to describe the renovation of Town Hall project. He said that the board had met at the Town Hall special Meeting on April 27 to review the repairs. The bid package is posted on the website.

Mr. DiRocco shared the Zoom screen and showed drawings and specs for the repairs and renovation.

- Roof – cannot go out for a regular bid because the cost is below the threshold. CPL will compare the prices of three roofers. The task is to replace broken shingles, gutters, gutter hangers, snow guards to prevent snow build up at the bottom. Gutter hangers will be replaced with copper. Copper seams need to be soldered.
- Basement – As part of mold remediation, carpet and sheet rock will be replaced.
 - Replace the door to the basement
 - As an alternate, basement windows will be replaced
 - The carpet will be replaced with vinyl plank flooring
- Ceiling replacement – as a result of roof leaks, the ceiling on the main floor will be replaced
- The front door will be replaced
- The bases on the columns, which are holding up the roof, are in bad repair and need to be replaced
- Attic – Replace fiberglass insulation and check the sub-floor
- Window Wells
- Electrical – new generator, fire alarm and carbon monoxide alarm system

The front end spec will have all necessary information for contractors. This is 90% completed.

Supervisor Kersten asked for questions. Robina Ward asked about replacement of gutters. Are they being fixed, or replaced? Jonathan DiRocco responded that they were all being replaced, and a gutter on the entrance in the back will be installed.

Resolution #38. Approval of bid package

On a motion by Tom Carty, seconded by Steve Tiger, the board voted to approve the bid package as presented

Adopted Vote

Aye: 3 Nay: 0

Resolved to approve the bid package for the renovation of Town Hall

Resolution #39. Approval of the minutes of the Town Board of April 11, 2023

On a motion by Steve Tiger, seconded by Tom Carty, the Board voted to accept the minutes of April 11, 2023.

Adopted Vote

Aye: 3 Nay: 0

Resolved to accept the Minutes of the April 11, 2023 Town Board Meeting

Resolution #40. Approval of the minutes of the Special Town Board Meeting of April 27, 2023

On a motion by Steve Tiger, seconded by Tom Carty, the Board voted to accept the minutes of April 27, 2023.

Adopted Vote

Aye: 3 Nay: 0

Resolved to accept the Minutes of the April 27, 2023 Town Board Meeting

Supervisor's Report

The town continues to be in good financial shape. \$130,299.54 was collected in Sales Tax.

Sewer -- Local Laws 29-30 -- Repayment of sewer funds: ARPA funds totalling \$87,886.71 have been withdrawn, and a deposit of a like amount made into the Sewer Fund. As of June 15 the sewer fund will make its initial deposit into the general fund according to the schedule in Local Law #30.

Sewer system – 10K gallons/day were used in April. Sewer bills have gone out according to the new fee schedules and are being paid. The DEC inspector looked into the system and that inspection went well.

Board of Supervisors will be talking about:

- Food scrap program
- Authorization of weighted voting analysis
- The return of trash bags as opposed to tags
- A facilities plan to renovate or replace county owned buildings
- Local Law to offer tax exemptions for volunteer fire fighters and emergency medical personnel

Memorial Day: The parade will leave Ancram at 10:30 AM.

Highway Report – Richard Briggs was not present

Town Clerk's report

There were two marriages. Two dogs were lost but then found.

Camp applications have been coming in and the summer youth program is almost at capacity

Town Clerk Sheer proffered a plan and budget for the appointment of Ramona Bellamy be made temporary Deputy Town Clerk until the end of the year. Her function will be to input town minutes and other documents into the newly approved eCode360 document storage site.

Motion to appoint Ramona Bellamy as temporary Deputy Town Clerk

A motion was made by Tom Carty, and seconded by Steve Tiger to appoint Ramona Bellamy as temporary Deputy Town Clerk as of June 1st.

Adopted Vote

Aye: 3 Nay: 0

The Board moved to appoint Ramona Bellamy as Temporary Deputy Town Clerk.

Fire District Report – Joe Hanselman, Jr. was not present

Tax Collector's Report – Joe Hanselman, Jr. was not present

Sewer Report – This was covered earlier

Human Resources – Steve Tiger said that there was nothing to report

Infrastructure – Robina Ward said that there had been a bid from Brothers Landscaping to mow areas in the town. The bid was for \$475 per mowing. At approximately 22 mowings per year, that would leave the bid exactly on budget.

Motion to accept the bid from Brothers Landscaping

A motion was made by Steve Tiger, and seconded by Tom Carty to accept the bid from Brothers Landscaping to mow.

Adopted Vote

Aye: 3 Nay: 0

The Board moved to approve the bid from Brothers Landscaping

In addition, Robina mentioned that she had ordered the wreaths for the town for Memorial Day.

Roe Jan Park Report – while Joanna Virello was not present, she had sent a report concerning Roe Jan Park

The Farmer's Market contract is underway.

Staff and travel information for the summer recreation program were being worked on

16 bags of compost and topsoil have been ordered for the community garden which will be delivered on May 10

A new handicapped toilet is being put in the park from a different vendor

Signs for the park are still being worked on.

Town Board member Virello sent a budget request to Tom Carty of the Kidsdale event:

- Band - \$1000
- DJ - \$200
- Sound - \$175
- Refreshments - \$75
- Town Tent – originally requested \$240, Robina corrected this to \$282
- Porta Potty - \$145

The money for this is coming from two budget lines: band concerts, and celebrations. In terms of income, it is expected to equal out

Motion to accept the budget for Kidsdale

A motion was made by Steve Tiger, and seconded by Tom Carty to accept the budget for Kidsdale

Adopted Vote

Aye: 3 Nay: 0

The Board moved to approve the budget for Kidsdale

Committee Reports

Hamlet Committee

A small sign has been ordered which will list all town businesses. This sign will accompany the upcoming mural

A request has been put in for and Arts Walk in August. The organizers need insurance and paperwork to close off Anthony Street on August 14. They may also want to use the Hamlet Park.

Motion to approve the Arts Walk in principle

A motion was made by Tom Carty, and seconded by Steve Tiger to hold the Arts Walk

Adopted Vote

Aye: 3 Nay: 0

The Board moved to approve, in principle, the Arts Walk

Engineering Report

The Town Hall renovation project was discussed at the beginning of the meeting

Bridge NY – the program is still pending, and should roll out imminently. The Town is hopeful

Streetscape applications- the town is waiting for a state grant to open up for applications

A letter came from Chuck Johnson expressing concern over speeding on Route 71. Mr. Johnson claimed it was the responsibility of the town to put up signs or speed check signs. The latter, Supervisor Kersten pointed out, are quite pricey. DOT requirements would necessitate a break-away pole. The estimated cost for speed check signs would be at least \$10k Supervisor Kersten asked for other thoughts

The sheriff has been patrolling the area more frequently, so Supervisor Kersten thought it prudent to ask the sheriff how often patrolling occurred. Robina suggested asking the sheriff how many tickets have been issued there. The Board agreed to research the topic and come back to it in the June meeting

New Business

Tom Goldsworthy has requested the Town's approval to hold the Roe Jan Ramble on September 23 and designate it a town sponsored event

Motion to hold the Roe Jan Ramble

A motion was made by Tom Carty, and seconded by Steve Tiger to hold the Roe Jan Ramble

Adopted Vote

Aye: 3 Nay: 0

The Board moved to approve the Roe Jan Ramble and designate it a town sponsored event.

Public Comments

David Ruede asked about infrastructure; in particular the entry sign to the town. Robina responded that the sign was being worked on. The metal work costs \$9-10K to replace.

Mr Ruede then asked whether two missing street lights are being installed. Robina answered that the Town is researching the moving of two streetlights further back so that they would not be in danger of being hit. Mr. Ruede asked whether it was possible to get a monthly update. Robina said the Town is trying to find out whether it is possible to move the lights.

Resolution #41 – Abstract dated May 2, 2023. The Board has approved the abstracts of the following:

General	\$7308.35
Highway	\$14,687.92
Sewer	\$1556.26
Parks	\$209.75
Lighting	\$0.0
Capital Fund	\$0.0

Motion. Adjourn Meeting.

A motion was made by Tom Carty and seconded by Steve Tiger to adjourn the Town Board meeting at 8:02 pm.

Motion Vote

Aye: 3 Nay: 0

Motion Carried

The next Town Board meeting will be Tuesday, June 13, 2023 at 7:00 PM