

# *New Hartford Township*

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## *Annual Meeting*

*March 8, 2022, 8:15pm*

*Held at New Hartford Town Hall*

*42774 County Rd 12 Nodine, MN*

Board Members present: Supervisor Chair-Joe Baumgartner, Supervisor -Larry Moldenhauer, Supervisor-Ernie Erdmann

Clerk: Richard Brown Treasurer: Michael Moor Deputy Clerk: Andrea Erdmann

Others present:

Sandra Unnasch, Vicki Baumgartner, Marcia Ward, Warren Bartash, Cindy Nesler, Karl Nesler, Pam Thesing, John Nesler, Loren Moldenhauer, Brian J Stremcha, Harlan Sebo, David E Thesing, Richard Johnson, Linda Johnson, Meredith Kramer, Laura Delaney, Jerris Heyer, Keith Olson, Cheryl Olson, Wyatt Erdmann, Willie Erdmann

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Chairman Baumgartner at 8:15pm

County Commissioner Marcia Ward was nominated to moderate the meeting.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Polls for the annual Township election were opened by Clerk Richard Brown at 4:00pm. He closed the polls at 8:00pm. Election judges publicly counted the ballots. Richard Johnson receiving thirty votes. There was three write in votes for a three-year term as Supervisor.

Andrea Erdmann received thirty-two votes for a two-year term as Clerk. There were two write in votes for a two-year term as clerk.

Election judges were Head Judge Richard Brown, Ernie Erdmann, and Andrew Pedretti.

Bob Babeneck, Winona County Clerk swore in the new officers Richard Johnson Supervisor, Andrea Erdmann Clerk

Winona County Clerk Bob Babeneck spoke to us about real estate sales. There was a 2021 Real Estate Highlights in handout. Prices are even higher this year with more buyers than homes available.

The minutes of the 2021 annual meeting were made available for review. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as written.

Andrea Erdmann read the Board of Audit Report. Motion from Andrew Pedretti to approve the Board of Audit report. Second by Larry Moldenhauer. All approved.

Vicki Baumgartner read the Fire and Rescue Report. Donation from Duluth Fire Department \$20,000 of air packs. Air tanks were purchased with the 50/50 grant from the DNR. New radios were also purchased with grant money. The fire department is working on replacing turnout gear for the fire fighters. Anything over 10 years old needs to be replaced per OSHA rules

There are thirteen members, eleven are active.

There were ninety-five total calls. Sixty-seven calls were rescue or car accident related. There were twenty fire related calls

There was a question from Marcia Ward regarding how many people are home during the day to respond to calls. This is a growing problem in rural Minnesota. We do have a few people around during the day.

Vicki Baumgartner commented on the increased training requirements. Firefighters and first responders get paid for training.

Comment from Warren Bartash that Nodine and Dakota do respond to calls together.

The 2021 Road Report was reviewed.

2021 Road Report

Rock Roads \$38,708.52

Culvert Replacements \$37,617.01

Dust Spray \$4,182.00

Total Amounts Spent on Each Road Includes Culverts, Rock, and Dust Spray. Grading and other maintenance costs not included.

Beacon Rd	\$211.46	Nickel Dr	\$811.74
Bobcat Road	\$2,295.59	North Pine Creek Rd	\$3,635.24
Coyote Road	\$571.42	Papenfuss Dr	\$1,761.56
Dakota Valley Dr (multiple culverts)	\$34,585.10	Pioneer Rd	\$197.39
Echo Valley Drive	\$1,552.89	Rose Creek Dr	\$1,044.20

Forster Hill Road(culvert)	\$2,994.50	Rose Hill Rd	\$239.03
Four Farms Road	\$2,495.62	Runaway Drive	\$452.97
Heyer Road	\$810.27	Runaway Rd	\$387.27
Husman Ridge Rd (2 culverts)	\$7,979.74	Schroeder Rd	\$193.52
Knob Hill Road	\$1,842.15	Selke Rd (culvert fixed)	\$1,518.75
Lanes Valley Rd	\$1,770.47	Spies Rd	\$579.05
Linander Rd	\$1,971.77	Stoehr Drive	\$195.00
Lost Valley Dr	\$1,166.63	Tori Drive (cattle pass removed)	\$6,813.39
New Hartford Rd	\$506.78	Wolf Hill Drive (culvert fixed)	\$2,694.03

Runaway Road Bridge Replacement Update. The federal government is involved, and they are hoping to complete this year. There will still be a cost of \$20,000 to the township.

Loan for the EMS truck was paid off in full, the truck is 2 years old.

American Rescue Act money received in July of 2021 \$48,739.88 we will receive another \$48,739.88 in July of this year. This money can now be used for roads. It cannot be used to pay off debts or spent on retirement. The spending of this money will be discussed at future meetings.

Agendas and meeting minutes are being posted on the township website. Comment from Keith Olson on getting a tracker on the website to see how many people are looking at the website. Andrea Erdmann will add a tracker. A lot has been added to the website in the past 6 to 7 months and everyone is encouraged to use it.

A Special Primary Election will be held May 24<sup>th</sup>. This is to fill the open seat due to the death of Jim Hagedorn. Question from Marcia Ward on if there will be a special election in August. Andrea Erdmann will be sure to send out the information on upcoming elections once it is announced.

MAT offers a scholarship opportunity for high school juniors. This is on the New Hartford Township website as well as the MAT Website. Please let Andrea Erdmann know if you have any questions on this.

Public comments, items of concern

Keith Olson sent out a letter listing issues he has with how the township is being run. One issue is the use of township equipment for non-township purposes. The mower and grader should only be used for our township. The board responded that equipment has not been used for non-township purposes for 3 to 4 years. Joe Baumgartner explained the agreement we have with Dresbach Township. They plow snow for us in the winter. This saves Willie time while plowing. Willie does grade and mow their roads

when he is there in the summer. Dresbach pays New Hartford Township an hourly wage for the grading and mowing that it done.

Public comment from Keith Olson on the mowing. He would like the township to go back to paying a contractor to mow the ditches rather than having the township own their own equipment.

Public comment from Keith Olson on the budget. He proposes a new budget that is \$60,000 less then what we are currently spending. Question on the levy increase that was voted on to sealcoat roads.

Keith Olson handed out a detailed alternative budget that details the townships spending for the past four years.

Comment that prices are increasing for fuel so we will have to pay more for the same services.

Comment from Dave Thesing. He received the letter from Keith Olson. He agrees with supervisors regarding the mower. He likes that the township owns it. He does not feel we should cut the budget. Finally, the sealcoat, you cannot just put sealcoat on any road. The sealcoat is part of the road fund. It would be a million-dollar project to sealcoat all the roads in the township. He does not think the budget should be cut. His road has improved.

Question from Keith Olson on what roads would be seal coated. Supervisor Baumgartner responded that the first roads to be seal coated would be Lanes Valley and Dakota Valley.

Comment from Marcia Ward on replacing the secondary bridge in Pickwick. They have received two bids. It is over two million dollars for that little bridge. There will be no bargains this year for projects.

There was more discussion on the amount it will cost to sealcoat roads and how the money for it should be allocated.

Question from Lauren Moldenhauer on if the township has an emergency fund. His father served on the board and there should be an emergency fund. He also sees that value in having someone know the roads so that stumps can be avoided.

Question from Laura DeLaney on if any financial reports are on the website, so that people can review the information. She also feels there should be a fund separated for seal coating.

Proposal from Keith Olson to limit the borrowing of money by the township. He would like to see the borrowing limited to 10% of the budget.

Marci Ward thanked Keith for the information that he put together.

Public comment from Meredith Kramer. She believes the supervisors should review the information that he put together. She commented on the amount of dust and traffic in Lanes Valley. The seal coat past her house has been a blessing.

Proposed Budget for 2023

General Fund	\$53,300.00
Road and Bridge	\$108,800.00
Fire and Rescue	\$36,000.00
Capital Expense	<u>\$30,000.00</u>
Total Levy	\$228,100.00

Motion by Andrew Pedretti and second from Larry Moldenhauer to accept the 2023 proposed budget. All approved.

Motion by Andrew Pedretti to increase the gopher bounty at \$3.00. Second by Laura Delaney All Approved.

Next year's Township voting day will be Tuesday March 14, 2023, voting hours 4pm to 8pm and 8:15pm annual meeting.

Motion by Larry Moldenhauer and seconded by Joseph Baumgartner to have the voting hours from 4pm to 8pm and annual meeting at 8:15pm on Tuesday March 14, 2023.

Question from Cody Gehrke on the progress of the Pickwick Bridge. They are looking at different costs and alternatives for a bypass bridge.

Comment from Warren Bartash. He likes the presentation screen at the meeting and the direction things are going with having more information available to the residents.

Comment from Karl Nesler. He would like to thank Keith Olson for bringing issues to the attention of the residents. He has also noticed that the board has been able to provide more answers to questions from residents.

Marcia Ward adjourned the meeting at 10:15pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrea Erdmann 03/15/21

Approved by:

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Chairman Joe Baumgartner

Witnessed:

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Clerk Andrea Erdmann

Witnessed:

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Meeting Moderator Marcia Ward

Date:

Notary:

Unapproved