

**New Hartford Township
MINUTES
for the Monthly Meeting
May 11, 2023, 7:00pm
New Hartford Town Hall**

Attendance

Supervisors: Joe Baumgartner, Richard Johnson, Larry Moldenhauer

Clerk: Andrea Erdmann

Dep. Clerk: Caroline van Schaik

Treasurer: Michael Moor

Maintenance: Willie Erdmann

Fire Chief: not present.

Meeting called to order by Supervisor Chairman Joe Baumgartner at 7:05 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

- a. Ernest Erdmann reported that the new culvert on Forster Road held up even with the recent $\frac{3}{4}$ inch rain. The board discussed seeding the bank. Erdmann raised the matter of sealing the manhole that currently gets runoff from around the building and a concern for exposed wiring that is at risk of being mowed over. The board discussed finding an electrician.
- b. Ed Walsh thanked the board for the improved road condition on Lanes Valley Drive and asked about a stop sign. Willie Erdmann confirmed that the township has one and said he will install it. Willie also will check a soft spot near Walsh's driveway, which Joe Baumgartner said might need rock. Ed asked about snowdrifts from the mid-April snowstorm and said he would have been stuck without his own equipment. The board discussed a future focus on ridgetops.

Approval of March 9th regular meeting minutes, March 9th Board of Canvass Meeting minutes - Motion by Joe Baumgartner, second by Larry Moldenhauer to approve both sets of minutes. All approved.

Fire Department Report – Willie Erdmann noted that the department had not heard the decision regarding a submitted grant that will cover replacement uniforms and equipment.

Road Reports

- Snow wing cart – Willie Erdmann said he was in touch with the company about exchanging the neoprene wheels for steel wheels, which is what the board had expected. The board discussed what might be involved in switching wheels, placement-wise. Willie will follow up.
- Garage door on shop – Willie Erdmann reported that the garage door on the shop has new hanging brackets and works well but the grader door opener only works within 10 feet of the

door. Willie will follow up with the company. He also will call about replacing the compressor. He will plant rye seed on the Forster Road culvert bank for soil stabilization. All roads have been graded at least once and many twice. He recommended a light coat of rock on all roads with a couple of exceptions in need of a heavier layer. There was discussion of a new sink hole that the landowner will address.

- Rock bids – Per a motion at the April meeting, the lowest bid for ridge roads went to Mathy Construction and to La Crescent Rock Products for valley roads.
- Anything to report from the road tour – see public comments above. Joe Baumgartner said the bridge work is delayed until May 22, 2023.

Old Business

- Awning over door to townhall - No action
- Driveway permit – Andrea Erdmann has the check and will post the request in the Houston County News and at 3 sites per township agreement.
- Camera and water sensor installation – Andrea Erdmann said Best Buy will install on Saturday with either Kate Reece or herself present. The board discussed sensor placements. Kate and Andrea will have access to sensor notifications until further notice.
- Animal Nuisance in Dakota Valley – Joe Baumgartner reported being in touch with County Supervisor Marcia Ward about an ordinance that appears to be a long time in development. The board agreed to remove this item from the agenda until further notice from the county.
- Mowing Operation Contract and tractor lease – The board agreed to pay \$30/hour to lease the tractor of Willie Erdmann for township mowing on a yearly contract basis. Andrea Erdmann will follow up with the township lawyer to develop a contract since the Minnesota Association of Townships (MAT) does not have a prototype for such services.
- Insurance claim filed through MATIT – Joe Baumgartner said the initial effort to replace the window broken during a mowing incident was stopped without notifying the township. The homeowner is trying to find a replacement .
- Mowing townhall, shop. Still need W9. Also motion to approve pay raise – tabled.
- Review of insurance claims – Andrea Erdmann met with the township insurance representative to review coverage of township equipment and buildings. The recommendation would double coverage for the buildings (hall, sand shed, shop) and add \$1,000 to the annual premium. After discussion of potential damages, the board agreed to follow this recommendation but to hold on equipment coverage. Motion by Joe Baumgartner, second by Larry Moldenhauer to insure the township building for \$300,000, the sand shed for \$50,000, and the shop for \$244,000; all approved.
- Approve Claims – Motion to approve claims by Joe Baumgartner, second by Richard Johnson; all approved.

New Business

1. Septic at townhall/fire station – The blockage that prevented the toilets from filling was due to a rag that was flushed out before it got to the septic tank. The board agreed to purchase a sump pump. Joe Baumgartner will call an electrician to fix the exposed wiring.
2. Clerk's Report
 - a. Office hours will be most Mondays, 9- 11 a.m.
 - b. New phone with answering machine for the townhall – Andrea will look into this in order to remove her home phone as the township business contact.
 - c. Check signers – Deputy Clerk Caroline van Schaik will be added for when Andrea is away. Everyone else also has to stop by the bank to renew their signatures.
 - d. Reminder to cash checks; currently 13 checks outstanding – heard!
3. Treasurer's report
 - a. Starting balance tonight: \$263,527.41
 - b. Paid tonight: \$6,237.24
 - c. Ending balance tonight: \$257,290.17
 - d. May 12, 2022 balance: \$254,415.93

Motion to adjourn at 8:35 p.m. by Joe Baumgartner, second by Larry Moldenhauer; all approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Caroline van Schaik 6/8/2023

Approved by:

Chairman Joe Baumgartner

Witnessed:

Dep. Clerk Caroline van Schaik

Date: