

**New Hartford Township
MINUTES
for the Monthly Meeting
July 13, 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

Guests: Rick Adams, John Maass, Ann O'Malley, Jon Nicholson, Ed Walsh, Jerry Zenke

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

Approval of June 8, 2023 regular meeting minutes - Motion by Joe Baumgartner, second by Richard Johnson. All approved.

Rick Adams - Township Acknowledgement Form and plans for a cell phone tower by Verizon Hemphill Towers: A proposal for a Verizon cell tower behind St. John's Lutheran School was presented by representative Rick Adams of Hemphill Towers, the Oklahoma-based company that selected the site based on Verizon specifications and will build the tower. Landowner Jerry Zenke was in the audience. The proposal sites the tower approximately 350 feet south of the school in row crop ground. Andrea Erdmann proposed 1000 feet from the school; Adams said that it will not pose a danger to children because of the 250-foot height. Ed Walsh asked what other sites were under consideration; Adams said he is not required to pursue more than one site but that he can bring more information to the Winona County Planning and Zoning public hearing. *(The hearing will take place Thursday, Aug. 17, 2023, at 7 p.m. at the county building.)* Jon Nicholson asked about the nearby Kwik Trip tower; Adams said he did not know. The board indicated its support for the proposal but noted on its Township Acknowledgment Form a concern that the tower siting is too close to the school and suggested a 1,000-foot distance.

Jon Nicholson – annexation input: Nicholson gave the board a heads up that he and his family are working with Dakota to consider the annexation of his family's undeveloped township property so that they can build a home for their son and his family. Winona County is unlikely to permit the building site due to slope requirements, Nicholson said. Nicholson addressed driveway and drainage issues, noting that the proposed new driveway would connect to the county road by way of Nicholson's existing driveway. No action was required.

Public Comment

- a. Ed Walsh thanked the board for the new stop sign and asked if he could dig out an old post adjacent to it. Willie Erdmann said he will take it out. Walsh also expressed appreciation for the gravel.

- b. John Maass and Ann O'Malley asked about the status of the culvert on Lanes Valley Rd. Joe Baumgartner said it is too short and will need to be replaced. He also confirmed that the township plans to seal coat the road in 2024.

Fire Department Report

- a. Donation note from the clerk – Marcia Ward donated her \$12 fee for facilitating the Mar. 14, 2023 Annual Meeting to the fire department, per her verbal request that evening to Clerk Andrea Erdmann.
- b. A Fire Department report was read by Joe Baumgartner that addressed the purchase of new LED lights, a discounted set of fire pants/jackets, and four tourniquets; announcement of new member Andrew Teske; truck, pumper, and tanker repair needs; the possibility of new pagers; the still-pending DNR grant.
- c. There was discussion about getting a new ladder from Green Bay.

Road Reports

- a. Grader shed door opener – no progress
- b. Forster Road culvert seeding – no progress
- c. Road rock status – all roads done
- d. Dust spray update, map – Joe Baumgartner said to expect dust spray in about a week.
- e. Stop sign on Lost Valley Road – installed (*with thanks, see public comment above*)
- f. Culvert update on Dakota Valley Drive – in progress
- g. Salt prices – Andrea Erdmann reported a price through the state of \$94.41/ton from a vendor called Compass. The board moved to purchase 25 tons for delivery in mid-to late-August. Motion by Joe Baumgartner, second by Richard Johnson; all approved. Willie Erdmann will seek lime screenings bids by the August meeting.
- h. Road grading – Willie Erdmann asked about keeping records of road grading; the board agreed there was no need.
- i. Cleanup – Willie Erdmann agreed to clean up around the shed.

Old Business

- a. Awning over townhall door by Joe Baumgartner –in progress
- b. Insurance claim filed through MATIT update by Joe Baumgartner and Andrea Erdmann – The clerks reported that MAT has agreed to pay \$7,000 toward the window repair/replacement from a mowing accident, with no liability by the township and no further financial responsibility by MAT. Joe Baumgartner agreed to make a courtesy visit to the homeowner to preview the terms and limits of the settlement.
- c. Tractor lease contract follow up by Andrea Erdmann – Lease is signed with Willie Erdmann for use of his tractor.
- d. Cornerstone Certificate of Insurance, W-9, contract for mowing update by Joe Baumgartner – Andrea Erdmann reported she has received a W-9, is working on a Certificate of Insurance, and has no contract. The board agreed the township needs a contract for the work and recommended sending it with payment for services to date.
- e. Manhole, wiring, septic light indicator update by Joe Baumgartner – No action. Willie Erdmann will contact an electrician.
- f. Refrigerator update by Richard Johnson – Richard Johnson said to expect notice of delivery any day and confirmed he had arranged to have to old one removed.
- g. Approve Claims - Motion to approve claims by Joe Baumgartner, second by Larry Moldenhauer;

all approved.

New Business

1. Clerk's Report
 - a. Dehumidifier purchase – A new small one supplements the existing dehumidifier.
 - b. County housing survey – The survey link is available until July 14, 2023, and can be found at this link: www.surveymonkey.com/r/VK92QWT. The link is on the township web site.
For more information on this project, please visit the Winona County EDA website at: www.co.winona.mn.us/379/Economic-Development.
 - c. Aug. 2, 2023 district meeting, Witoka Tavern - FYI
 - d. Aug. 9, 2023 bi-monthly district meeting at Wilson townhall - FYI
 - e. "New" computer update – unlocked, working great
 - f. Fire department receipts – Please get them to the township as soon as possible.

2. Treasurer's Report
 - a. Starting balance tonight \$366,087.59
 - b. Spent tonight \$37,368.05
 - c. Balance tonight \$328,719.54
 - d. This month last year - July 14, 2022: \$321,573.97
 - e. Other – Treasurer Michael Moor noted that with the sand truck paid off, there are no further payments. He also raised the possibility of investing in CDs, given rising interest rates. For example, he said, a 7-month CD could be held for seal coating funds allocated for next year.

Motion to Adjourn the regular meeting at 8:45 p.m. by Joe Baumgartner, second by Richard Johnson; all approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Caroline van Schaik 8/10/2023

Approved by:

Chairman Joe Baumgartner

Witnessed:

Dep. Clerk Caroline van Schaik

Date: