

**New Hartford Township
MINUTES
for the Monthly Meeting
September 14, 2023, 7:00 pm
New Hartford Town Hall**

Attendance

Supervisors: Joe Baumgartner, Larry Moldenhauer, Richard Johnson

Clerk: Andrea Erdmann

Dep. Clerk: Caroline van Schaik

Treasurer: Michael Moor

Maintenance: Willie Erdmann

Fire Chief: absent

Guests: Lisa Radtke, Ed Walsh

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

Approval of Aug. 10, 2023 regular meeting minutes - Motion by Joe Baumgartner, second by Richard Johnson; all approved.

Jeff Jerue, Septic pros – Township Acknowledgement Form for a non-compliant holding tank at 42677 Cty 12. The board signed the form in support of the request to replace a septic holding tank 4 feet from a property line instead of the required 10 feet.

Public Comment - none

Fire Department Report

- a. Willie Erdmann noted that the Nodine Volunteer Firefighters Relief Association is expected to vote on Sept. 27, 2023 in support of joining the Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA).

Road Reports

- a. Salt, mansand update – Willie Erdmann reported both arrived and are mixed and ready for winter.
- b. Contract with Richmond Township for road grader staff, equipment - Willie has put in about three hours of grading and doesn't know of additional needs.
- c. Post removal on Lost Valley Dr. update - removed
- d. Permit to replace culvert on Lanes Valley Rd. – After discussion, the board decided to put in a new four-foot culvert and expects to have it in before the end of the calendar year.
- e. Grader door opener – no change
- f. Forster Road culvert seeding – The culvert bank has a good grass cover.
- g. Gravel question – Willie raised the issue of gravel on Thicke Drive, which may no longer be the township's responsibility. Joe Baumgartner will follow up with the landowner.

Old Business

- a. Speed signs follow up by Ed Walsh – Ed reported that after working with Winona County staff, it has been determined that Lanes Valley Rd. does not qualify for a reduced speed limit other than the default 55 mph. To qualify for a 35 mph posting by the township, houses would have

to be closer on average than 300 feet on a road more than a quarter mile long. Clerks will investigate the possibility of a speed limit on Heyer Road after the matter was raised last month.

- b. Cell tower update – Andrea Erdmann reported that the Winona County Board of Supervisors on Sept. 12, 2023 tabled a decision on the Conditional Use Permit request for a proposed cell tower to be built behind St. John’s Lutheran School until its regular meeting on Monday, Oct. 24, at 6 p.m. The board asked the tower builder to better explain why it wants to build at that location and to consider a different site. *NOTE: Board of Supervisors meetings are open to the public and include an open comment period at the start of each meeting. Please check the township website for updates, <https://townshipnewhartford.org/>.*
- c. Local Road Improvement Program grant – Caroline van Schaik reported that the LRIP does not include seal coating but that townships are encouraged to contact their counties for funding assistance. Joe Baumgartner will check with the county.
- d. Insurance claim filed through MATIT – Joe Baumgartner reported that there has been no change in the window status and that this matter is closed.
- e. Cornerstone Certificate of Insurance – Andrea Erdmann said the certificate and contract are received.
- f. Awning over townhall door by Joe Baumgartner – no progress.
- g. Approve Claims – Motion to pay the bills, including MiEnergy pending, by Joe Baumgartner, second by Larry Moldenhauer; all approved.

New Business

1. Clerk’s Report

- a. Hokah Oil contract – Joe Baumgartner reported that the Consolidated Energy contract price for bulk oil is the same as Hokah Oil. Joe motioned to purchase 1500 gallons for each site (township hall, shop) from Hokah Oil, second by Larry Moldenhauer; all approved.
- b. Credit card update – Caroline van Schaik reported that the credit card annual fees are now waived since the township is a non-profit entity and that a “maintenance account” card has been added to our account with a \$500 limit to purchase supplies.
- c. Kwik Trip fuel/oil-only cards in fire trucks – Voice messages to Kwik Trip have not been answered, perhaps because the names on the account need to be updated. Clerk Andrea Erdmann will make the change so that she and Treasurer Michael Moor are the contacts and will order four fuel-only cards for the trucks. She stressed the importance of dropping receipts in to the secure mailbox outside the clerk office immediately.
- d. Dresbach grading contract – Andrea noted that she is redoing the contracts for Dresbach and Richmond townships to reflect just grading. She recommended a higher rate than the current \$95 per hour.
- e. 77th Annual Township Officers Association Banquet Oct. 11, 2023 at 7 p.m., Witoka – Details provided including how to RSVP.
- f. On-line meeting option – There was discussion on this possibility including some suggestions from MAT regarding how to sign in and to mute participants. No decision was made.
- g. Protocol for non-residential issues brought to the township - The board had an initial discussion on placing a delay on an agenda item brought by a non-resident or commercial entity. Clerks will check with MAT.

2. Treasurer’s Report

- a. Starting balance tonight: \$282,060.03
- b. Spent tonight: \$23,672.93
- c. Balance tonight: 258,387.10

- d. This month last year: Sept. 8, 2022 \$264,615.57
- e. Other – none

3. Other – Joe Baumgartner noted that the township should seal coat every other year based on what we can afford.

Motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:35 p.m. by Joe Baumgartner, second by Richard Johnson; all approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Caroline van Schaik 10/12/2023

Approved by:

Chairman Joe Baumgartner

Witnessed:

Dep. Clerk Caroline van Schaik

Date: