

**New Hartford Township
MINUTES
for the Monthly Meeting
January 11, 2024, 7:00 pm
New Hartford Town Hall**

Attendance

Supervisors: Larry Moldenhauer, Richard Johnson (Joe Baumgartner was out sick)

Clerk: Andrea Erdmann

Dep. clerk: Caroline van Schaik

Treasurer: Michael Moor

Maintenance: Willie Erdmann

Fire Chief: absent

Guests: Ed Walsh, Ernie Erdmann

Meeting called to order by Vice-chairman Larry Moldenhauer at 7:05 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Dec. 14, 2023 regular meeting minutes - Motion by Larry Moldenhauer, second by Richard Johnson; all approved.

Public Comment – none

Fire Department Report - Willie Erdmann reported that the new benefits program was still baffling some members, that everyone is recertified after the CPR training, and that the pumper truck is partially repaired.

Road Reports

- a. Tree cutting, equipment rental – Willie Erdmann said his skid steer worked better than the township backhoe to load cut wood, and the board concurred. Clerk Andrea Erdmann said the skid steer should be insured for use by the township and that the township would need to establish a lease agreement with Willie. Willie will check on a fair rental rate. Richard Johnson motioned to approve renting Willie's skid steer at the rate recommended by Bobcat Rental, second by Larry Moldenhauer; all approved. Andrea will follow up with insurance and lease agreements.
- b. Permit to replace culvert on Lanes Valley Rd. update by Richard Johnson – nothing further at this point.
- c. Gopher State On Call update by Andrea Erdmann – The account is approved and needs to be activated, which Andrea will do.
- d. Other- Ed Walsh thanked Willie Erdmann for plowing. Willie warned the board of pending repairs on the plow.

Old Business

- a. Protocol for Township Acknowledgement Form requests and other issues to allow for resident input – Deputy clerk Caroline van Schaik said the board has the authority to postpone action on an issue as it sees fit, according to advice from the Minnesota Association of Townships. Further, Minnesota's 60-Day Rule starts once all documents are received by the county, not the township. The board had asked about

- how best to safeguard community input on issues.
- b. Township hall door awning update by Joe Baumgartner - Larry Moldenhauer asked how far along Joe Baumgartner was in the process, noting that Menards had awning and installation options.
 - c. Mileage reimbursement rate in 2024 – Clerk Andrea Erdmann said the new federal reimbursement rate is \$0.67/mile and is reflected on new time sheets.
 - d. Department of Justice allegation – nothing new. Last month, the board asked that the item remain on the agenda each month.
 - e. Approve Claims - Motion to pay the bills, including pending invoices from Excel, MiEnergy, by Richard Johnson, second by Larry Moldenhauer; all approved.
 - f. Other - none

New Business

1. MN Trespass Rule – This item was deferred to the February regular meeting.
2. FYI County hearing on cannabis retail in Dresbach – Clerk Andrea Erdmann noted the county Planning and Zoning hearing to take place on Jan. 18, 2024, at 7 p.m. and that Dresbach Township had had to complete a Township Acknowledgement Form.
3. FYI Public hearing on annexation of township property to City of Dakota - Clerk Andrea Erdmann noted the community meeting to take place on Feb. 12, 2024, 7 p.m. at the Bill Grant Community Center, Dakota. It pertains to a request by township residents Jon Nicholson and Anne Morse to build a home for their son’s family. Jon presented the possibility to the New Hartford Township board at the July 2023 regular meeting as a courtesy – no action is required by the New Hartford township.
4. Clerk’s Report
 - a. Elections – The clerks confirmed that the Option B question of an appointed clerk will be on the township election ballot Mar. 12, 2024, and noted that the website is current regarding election dates, how to run for two open positions, job descriptions, and related matters.
 - b. Postcard update – mailed in December, with a few being returned for follow up.
 - c. Update on new state leave allowances – The new state allowances for earned sick and safe time are not yet reflected in the township’s accounting software due to coding issues. Andrea hopes to have more information by the next meeting.
 - d. Other - none
5. Treasurer’s Report
 - a. Starting balance tonight: \$328,295.63
 - b. Spent tonight: \$12,459.14
 - c. Balance tonight: \$315,836.49
 - d. This month last year: Jan. 5, 2023 - \$289,136.69
 - e. CD update – The townships’ new 6-month Certificate of Deposit of \$100,000 matures on June 18, 2024, in time to be applied toward seal coating. The balance of township funds now fall within federal insurance limits.
 - f. Other – none

Motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:38 p.m. by Richard Johnson, second by Larry Moldenhauer; all approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Caroline van Schaik 2/8/2024

Approved by:

Chairman Joe Baumgartner

Witnessed:

Date

Dep. Clerk Caroline van Schaik

Date