# New Hartford Township

# MINUTES

# for the Monthly Meeting

# June 13, 2024, 7:00 pm

# New Hartford Town Hall

**Attendance**

Supervisors: Larry Moldenhauer, Richard Johnson, Joe Baumgartner

Clerk: Kathy Klawiter

Treasurer: Michael Moor

Maintenance: Willie Erdmann

Fire Chief: Cody Gehrke

Guests: Ralph Wyngarder, Ernie Erdmann, Donna Heyer, Ed Walsh, Joan Zenke, Kieth Olson

Meeting called to order by Chairman Joe Baumgartner at 7:07 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of minutes for the regular meeting of May 11th, 2024 - Motion by Joe Baumgartner, second by Larry Moldenhauer; approved. To note corrected guest names. Fixed in May minutes.

Cell Tower Presentation by Hemphill, LLC to be erected on Jerry Zenke Land set behind his buildings. The tower construction will be started, hopefully by mid-fall 2024, with completion yet this year. Available for questions if any arise. Requested by Version but other carriers will also use it. There will even be service very close to it. The design is exactly the same as previous proposed tower near school which was approved but there were serious questions about location so near school. This one is not close to the school. Board has no comment on granting request. The acknowledgement was signed by Board.

**Public** **Comment**

Keith Olson declared he had a problem with how the minutes were recorded for the April meeting in that he did not say there was an appearance of a conflict of interest but an actual conflict of interest. No conflict of interest if there nobody else to do it. And under a certain dollar amount. Only B&B equipment was used. This resulted in a confrontational discussion with much empahsise on the wording used. Mr. Olson cited many state statues that addressed this. The Clerk will look up these statutes so we can also discuss the exceptions each of these statues contain. Joe Baumgartner brought up the fact that when there is need for immediate action and the safety of our Maintenance person is involved and very crucial, it is not possible to get either quotes or another company to remove trees immediately as needed to open road. This matter is tabled until the August meeting.

This brought up the discussion again of needing more information on the Township Right of Way, I.E. what about trees that hang over the road. Mr. Walsh requested that we clarify this issue and get something in writing that says there is or is not a 66 foot easement, more than just a 1992 lawsuit in another county. Clerk to investigate this. Mr. Walsh requested that we get our lawyer to send the court opinion from this lawsuit on road easement issue.

On the same note Ed Walsh brought up that he had two more trees go down on the Lost Valley Road the night before and he had to remove them himself as that is his only egress and Willie was unable to remove them immediately. Mr. Walsh suggested that we view the trees along the north side of Lost Valley road and be proactive. This is the third time he has removed downed trees himself. Concern was expressed that this is proactive but that he should not be removing them himself as it is a safety issue. He would expect to get paid if he removes them himself. The township requires that when a tree blocks the road he call Willie first, and only if Willie cannot respond so that they cannot get the necessary egress should Mr. Walsh do it himself.

Mr. Walsh stated that he would notify the Township before trying to open it himself, and if he cannot wait for the Township to remove them, he will remove them as much as necessary for egress and safety. He will then bill the Township. Clerk will find the documentation of the Lawsuit that addressed the right if way issue.

**Fire Department Report** –

1. Fire Chief Cody Gehrke reported that the hoses that were received were mounted on the pumper.
2. Fire Chief Cody Gehrke stated that he would be applying for a $45,000 grant for all new radios (portables, trucks bases). We would need to contribute 5%.
3. Cody found a place in the Cities to purchase the 928 Batteries needed for the Jaws. He will work on getting these purchased.
4. Andrew Teske is almost done with FireFighter II class and will be taking that exam, they also have two new trainies for the 1st responders. Nothing local so will send to TC and we will get reimbursement for these.
5. Ordered medical supplies.
6. Pumper needs manifold rebuild which will cost a substantial amount of money.
7. DNR Grant is up and Cody will be renewing it.
8. Looking into an incentive plan for the 1st responders.
9. On July 10th we will meet with a representative of the PERA SWF fund to discuss the switch to their plan instead of our Fire Fighters Association.This will be Donna, Kathy, Joe, Cody and Willie.
10. Discussed the two

**Road Reports**

1. Permit to replace culvert on Lanes Valley Rd. update – end of July or early August is the expected start date. Zenke will do the grading using our equipment. A boxed or straight blade is needed. The township has a straight blade. Will rock Lanes Valley closer to time of seal coating will check with Jack as to best time. The road is difficult to grade because of trees.
2. Willie reported that the roads are almost done getting rock and then they need to be graded again.
3. Dust control needs to happen in the next several weeks. Willie will ride with the dust sprayer.
4. Seal Coating is to happen in August.
5. The delivery slips from Milestone do not have specific roads noted despite our request. Will try to determine for record keeping. Joe will talk to Jack about this.

**Old Business**.

1. Nothing new on second party inquiry about the cutting on Forester Hill trees. It was sent to lawyer but have heard nothing back yet.
2. No outstanding claims to approve.
3. Department of Justice investigation. She was going to send us an informal list which we haven’t received yet. We are waiting for a formal notification from her which may take several months to receive, probably not till October. We can work on the items she told us about, but we cannot request an inspection until she sends us the formal letter. These items should be addressed to possibly prevent any further action.

**New Business**

1. Clerk’s Report
2. PNP request was completed and submitted, We will be receiving approximately $1,300 and we will be able to submit for additional reimbursement for each of the net two Federal elections.
3. Continue to work on getting judges certified for the next election. Waiting for more information on training for judges. Will be notified on training dates in early July. All judges need the training. This can be done either on line or in person. As soon as I know the dates and when to register, I will notify all the judges.
4. PO Box cannot be rekeyed. All Post Office keys were turned into Kathy and she will be only person picking up mail. A locked box was hung outside the office door and any mail for the fire department that is not a bill that needs to be approved by the fire chief will be put there. This is to ensure that we get all the bills in a timely manner to get them paid on time. Missing third PO Box keys will report as lost.
5. Kathy Attended the MAT Township Class. It was very helpful and can help clear-up some our question on conflict of interest. Will have a more complete review in July.
6. Certificate of Deposit will mature on June 18th, 2024. Discussed if we wanted to renew it for 3 months or convert it to a money market account. A money Market account would allow us to still get interest but would be readily available when we need it with no penalty. We could also use this account for any excess amount in our checking account that is over the FDIC limit. Motion was made to give Kathy(Clerk) the authority look into this and do what gives us the best return and flexibility by Joe Baumgartner, seconded by Larry Moldenhauer. Approved by all.
7. Treasurer’s Report: Reported that after the meeting we did pay three checks. Ernie Erdmann for 71.11, Mi Energy for $129.95, and Xcel energy for $68.90. Discussed money spent by Fire Department for picnic. Can be included it in amount for Appreciation dinner that was voted on and approved during annual meeting as the total amount voted for was $1400 and the annual dinner was only $900.
8. Starting balance tonight: $280,899.06
9. Spent tonight: $9,777.48
10. Balance tonight: $271,121.58
11. This month last year: June 8, 2023 $249,048.68

Motion to Adjourn - Motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:20 p.m. by Joe Baumgartner, second by Richard Johnson; all approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Klawiter 6/13/2024

Approved by:

Chairman Joe Baumgartner Date

Witnessed:

Kathy Klawiter, Clerk Date