# New Hartford Township

# MINUTES

# for the ANNUAL Meeting

# March 11, 2025, 8:15pm

# New Hartford Town Hall

**Attendance**

Supervisors: Larry Moldenhauer, Richard Johnson, Doug Satvenau

Clerk: Kathy Klawiter

Treasurer: Michael Moor

Others present:

Vicki Baumgartner, Joe Baumgartner, Ed Walsh, Keith Olson, Cheryl Olson, Dave Thesing, Ernest Erdmann, Marcia Ward, Linda Johnson, Ann O’Malley, Caroline van Schaik, Ernes Erdmann, Marcia Ward, Emma Iremonger, Cody Gehrke, Bill Schuldt, Lisa Radtke, Bill Thune.

Meeting called to order by Clerk Kathy Klawiter at 8:17 pm.

County Commissioner Marcia Ward was elected to serve as meeting moderator on a motion by Ed Walsh, second by Linda Johnson. All approved.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Rules for annual meeting read by Clerk Kathy Klawiter.

**Review of agenda** by Marcia Ward.

**Minutes of Mar. 12, 2024, Annual Meeting** – Copies were available and reviewed; motion by Ed Walsh, second by Linda Johnson to approve. All approved.

**Board of Audit Report –** Clerk Kathy Klawiter read the minutes; motion by Lisa Radtke to accept, second by Ed Walsh to approve as read. All approved.

**Introduction of New Supervisor** – Newly appointed Supervisor, Doug Stavenau was introduced, and he gave us an overview of his family, interests, and prior interactions with government.

**Fire and Rescue Report –** Cody Gehrke gave the report for 2024. Stating that they had a fair amount of calls and the team all pulled together. The NFD was extremely busy over the past year.

* NFR received a DNR 50/50 grant for new turnout gear. applied for a grant to begin replacing responder uniforms.
* NFR received a Gary Sinise foundation grant for a Lucas device. Price is normally $26,000. The Lucas device is an automated CPR device and frees personnel for other concerns.
* NFR received a grant for 3 AEDS.
* Total received in grants in 2024 was approximately $40,000.
* Four new members joined the team.

The big news for early 2025 was that on 2-17-25 and 2-18-25 NFD was paged to two separate structure fires. Due to the extreme cold both equipment and personnel were put to the test. The staff all returned to the station cold from the -28 degree temperature but safe. However Nodine Engine 262 suffered a catastrophic failure, with temps so cold as it was, we started to freeze up our hand lines and pump fittings causing severe damage.

The damage to the pump and valves was estimated to cost around $43,000. Due to the age of the engine it would take 6 months if not longer causing the community to be without an engine. Minutes after meeting with the techs and Township it was determined to start looking for another engine to replace engine 262. We found one on the Wisconsin Surplus auction site. Through the bidding process we were able to get a new engine for $16,500 plus commission. This came from our emergency truck replacement fund. Its name is Daisy. The old engine was purchased in 2015 from LCFD for roughly $30,000. During the 10 years of owning the old engine Nodine Fire ran 310 calls, 53 of them were structure fires.

**Calls from 2015-2025(total calls for past ten years was 1455).**

* Engine 310
* EMS Rig 611
* Brush Truck 266
* Tanker 235

The new 1999 Pierce Dash engine was purchased from Anoka Champlin Fire Dept. At the price of $16,500 it was a huge saving for the community. Our plan is to keep the new engine in service while NFD works diligently on the AFG grant to acquire a brand-new engine. When Nodine gets awarded the AFG grant we will have two engines for our rather large response area, to better aid the community. The truck was picked up on Saturday, Feb. 22, 2025 and after a delay of 4 hours due to a flat tire the crew of 5 came back and spent extensive hours over the remainder of that day and the next to get the truck outfitted and ready to use if the need arose. Several homeowners thanked them for their dedication.

Since the township owns the truck and it will be up to them how we will dispose of the old truck. We could put it on the same auction site or another one with a reserve or there has been some, interest within the community to purchase the truck. It will de-commissioned and not sold as a fire truck. This will be discussed at the monthly meeting.

* Nodine Fire and Rescue calls for the year = 113

EMTS also received a number of grants for the year enabling the Rescue team to get their medical supplies at a lower cost or free than normal. We also can get free Narcan from SWEMS in Rochester. We have 4 new members (Emma, Andrew, Maddie, Abe) and got a grant that paid for ¾ of their training.

Both the Fire Department and EMTS have very dedicated people and the community appreciates all their hard work.

**Other Business**

1. 2024 Road Report (see page 2 of agenda) – Clerk Kathy Klawiter read the Road Report Most roads received gravel as needed. No dust spraying was done in 2024 due to the weather becoming to dry. Lanes Valley road was seal coating was completed at a total cost of about $128,700. Ed Walsh noted that other roads should be considered for seal coating and recommended that the Board be proactive and develop a plan going forward.
2. Approve annual recognition dinner for Nodine Fire and Rescue members/ guests (1per member), $40 per person - Motion by Doug Stavenau, second by Ed Walsh. All approved.

A motion was made by Vickie Baumgartner to approve discretionary spending in the FD budget for misc nutritional supplies to be furnished as needed at the Fire Chiefs discretion. The motion was seconded by Linda Johnson and approved by all.

1. Email communications, website progress – Kathy Klawiter asked if people want a quarterly or yearly newsletter sent out. Most residents feel that keeping the website updated with posting was sufficient and less costly than sending out a newsletter to all residents. Recommendation for an electronic message board in front of Town Hall. Discussion about official newspaper.
2. MAT scholarship for high school juniors is available again this year. The website to apply is: <https://www.mntownships.org/about/scholarship-program>
3. **Other public comments, concerns, compliments**

Marcia Ward offered copies of the 2024 Winona County land and house sales report, pointed out high points in acreage and house sales, and said the full report is on the county web site.

1. Marcia brought up the MN legislature is looking at ways to fund the EMS system. Possible increase cell phone fee.
2. Unofficial election results were available as Judges Lisa Radtke and Letty Hornberg were able to complete the counting. Treasurer Mike Moor won with 29 votes and Richard Johnson won with 29 votes. Obi Wan Kanobi got one vote.
3. Department of Justice allegation update- After the visit by the DOJ official we received her report on what we needed to do to rectify the problems. Hese included needing to stripe the parking lot, and making sure that the handicapped space was of a proper size and adequately signed. This included adjusting the sign to the proper height and adding a van accessible sign. We needed to replace our entry ramp with one of a proper slope for ease of wheelchairs and walkers to enter the building, butting proper braille signs in the bathrooms and wrapping exposed pies with insulation. These items were addressed and fixed in September and October of 2024. We had to send them pictures and will need to verify that these items continue to be kept in place by quarterly reporting for 2 years.

**Proposed Budget for 2026 – 4% increase**

Ed Walsh noted that seal coating provides a safety and health benefit. He said we need to increase our levy to provide adequately to provide for future roads to be seal coated as it is a very expensive process. It takes about 15 years to recover the cost of seal coating. Taking into consideration the savings in gravel. Ed Walsh made a motion to increase the levy for Road and Bridge by $120,000. This would increase the total levy for 2026 by 40%. The motion was seconded by Ann. Motion failed. Caroline Van Schaik made a motion to accept the levy recommendation at an increase of 4%, seconded by Joe Baumgartner. The motion was approve. A discussion evolved about allocated funds versus budgets. This is something that needs more discussion as there is a difference of opinion on how to report funds and budgets.

***Proposed 2026 Levy***

 **General Fund $ 65,300**

 **Road and Bridge $120,700**

 **Fire Fund $ 38,200**

 **Capital Fund $ 37,000**

 **Total Levy $261,200**

**Gopher Bounty**

Motion to increase the gopher bounty to $4.00 by Joe Baumgartner, second by Keith Olson. All approved.

**Next annual meeting**

Next year’s Township Election will be Tuesday, Mar. 10th, 2026, 4-8 p.m. at the New Hartford Town Hall. The annual meeting will follow at 8:15 p.m. with a weather date of Mar. 17, 2026, at 8:15 p.m. Motion to set next year’s township election and annual meeting, by Lisa Radtke, second by Linda Johnson. All approved.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Klawiter 3/13/2025

Approved by:

Marcia Ward, moderator

Witnessed:

Clerk Kathy Klawiter Date: