# New Hartford Township

# MINUTES

# for the Monthly Meeting

# February 13, 2025, 7:00 pm

# New Hartford Town Hall

**Attendance**

Supervisors: Larry Moldenhauer, Richard Johnson

Clerk: Kathy Klawiter

Treasurer: Michael Moor

Maintenance:

Fire Chief: Cody Gehrke

Guests: Vickie Baumgartner, Caroline van Schaik, Wilie Erdmann, Ed Walsh, Emma Iremonger, Patricia Van Pelt, Bob Bruno, Charles Sonnek, Doug Stavenau, Aaron Klawiter, Allen, Klawiter, Bill Schuldt, Linda Johnson, Lisa Radtke, Ann O’Mallery, John Mass, Jerry Zenke, Warren Bartash, Joel Klawiter, David Vanderzee, Joel Baumgartner.

Meeting called to order by Vice Chairman Larry Moldenhauer at 7:10 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of minutes for the regular meeting of January 9, 2025 and the reconvened meeting on January13th– Motion to accept by Larry Moldenhauer, seconded by Richard Johnson; approved. The minutes from the January reconvened meeting were read aloud.

Before the public comments began Larry Moldenhauer noted issues that the speakers need to aware of:

1. This was not an Annual meeting, just a regular meeting and will conducted as such
2. Anyone wanting to comment must fill out a comment request form and they will be limited to 2 minutes each.
3. The vacancy was posted on the normal boards and put on the Township Website. The vacancy was explained and we asked that anyone who was interested should contact one of the board members with their phone numbers being given. No one responded so members of the board spent some time trying to recruit someone.
4. No disruption of the meeting will be tolerated and if it gets loud or out of hand the person(s) may be subjected to removal or the meeting may be immediately adjourned.
5. This is not a job interview and, by law, we can only require the same eligibility as for anyone filing for office: a.) must be a resident of the township for at least 30 days, b.) not a felon, c.) at least 21 years old.
6. Reminder that this is not a permanent full time appointment but only a temporary appointment to finish Joe Baumgartners term which ends March, 2026.

The candidates briefly introduced themselves;

Douglas Stavenau lives in Rose Valley. They have 3 children. He was former Chief of Police for La Crescent and is member of the LaCrescent fire department. As Police chief he had to work very closely with the LaCrescent board and so he does know something about how government meetings are run.

Joel Klawiter lives on Papenfuss Drive in Nodine. Has lived in New Hartford township for most of his life so knows of local concern. They have 4 children. He works in Winona and owns a small farm. He is interested because this would be a way that he could give back to his community.

**Public** **Comment:**

1. Caroline van Schaik asked about the preparations for the Annual election and meeting. The meeting has been posted and judges secured. The election is Tuesday, March11, 2025 from 4 to 8 PM with early voting available on Saturday, March 8.2025 from 10am to 12 noon.
2. Ed Walsh asked several questions about the process to appoint a new Supervisor to cover the remainder of Joe Baumgartner’s term, which runs until March of 2026.
3. Lisa Radtke voiced similar concerns and wanted to know more about the information given concerning, the procedure, from the MAT lawyer.
4. Discussion was had on the process for appointing Joe’s replacement. The process is for the two remaining Board members and the clerk to vote on the appointment. We had both candidates introduce themselves. The board will talk to them and make a decision.

Discussion followed on how much we could require from the candidate and again we cannot pose questions that they would not have to answer if they file and go to election. It was posed about if we could appoint them both but this is not possible per law. Ed Walsh suggested that the board meet with each candidat individually before making the decision. Bob Bruno noted that the three members (Richard, Larry and Kathy) are invested in helping see that the township will be run correctly and for the benefit of the residents and should be trusted with making a good decision. Te Vice Chairman requested we move on.

**Fire Department Report** –

1. Still waiting on the DNR Grant, waiting for the Federal Government to release funds.
2. Cody presented invoices for flashlights and tee shirts and hats, and recertification.
3. Cody attended the February Richmond Township meeting. They drew up a contract for Fire and Rescue Services Contract for the years 2025 thru 2027. It has the same language as the previous contract. Richmond will pay New Hartford $5,051 each year. A motion was made by Richard Johnson and seconded by Larry Moldenhauer. The motion was approved. Contract was signed.
4. We are applying for a AFG grant for a new truck, normally the copayment for a Fire department is between 5% to 25%. We have 50/50 chance of receiving a grant. It will provide better service to the community and have greater water capacity.
5. Want to donate some old SPCA air bottle to Hidden Vally Fire Department. We have no further need or use for them.
6. Commented he wants to maintain a good relationship with township with the new superc=visor.
7. Cleaning parking lot, who is responsible for this. It needs to be kept clean to prevent accidents when on a call. This should be the responsibility of the snowplow driver.
8. Question about ring camera and who keeps it working. Looking at reason we have not gotten any invoices for it.
9. Is it time to change locks because there are a lot of keys out there? They have been given to renters, contractors, ect and it has been difficult to get them back. Not sure if we can go digital, probably not because of the type doors we have. (Emergency breakaway handles required by law.

**Road Reports**

1. Richard Johnson made a motion to hire Charles Sonnek as snowplow driver for the township. The motion was seconded by Larry Moldenhauer. Approved. Since snow removal is considered an emergency, he does not need a CDL license right away but will get one ASAP. He has a lot of experience driving large vehicles. He spent time with Larry today so he is more familiar with the roads. A snowplow is considered an emergency vehicle so no CDL is required and there is no weight limit when plowing snow. There is a company in Lanesboro that offers a 3 day class and will help get a CDL License. We will help him get his CDL. Make sure he is covered by insurance. Cody gave him a map of the roads. Rich gave him a list of the roads. Charles will get with Willie for more help.

**Old Business**

1. Motion made by Richard Johnson to approve claims paid tonight and any outstanding claims. Motion was seconded by Larry Moldenhauer. Approved. There are no outstanding claims this month.
2. Board of Audit will be February 20th, 2025 and this was set at April 2024 reorganization meeting.
3. DOJ update-. The first report was due January 15th and was submitted and receipt acknowledged before January 15th. A concern was brought up about the fact that the new cement in front of the main door has heaved, making it difficult to open the door. The fix was to chip some out and now it is very rough, with a space big enough for someone with a walker to get it caught and fall. This will be addressed before the next report is due.
4. DOJ will probably not be happy with the fix we did because the door would not open do to heaving. It is now very rough and with a crevice that a disabled person could catch their walkers on. This is something that we need to address before another report is due to the DOJ.

**New Business**

1. Clerk’s Report
2. The Board of Audit meeting was set at the April 2024 reorganization meeting to be held February 20th, 2025 at 2:00pm
3. Willie will be off until at least the beginning of April 2025. Next appointment April 3rd and will find out then.
4. Discussed budgets again and handed the board members and Cody a copy of the last three years actuals (not just the Levy Amounts) so they could look at before we revisit again.More discussion is needed.
5. It was brought up that we could save approximately $2,000 a year if we cancel the PO Box and just have the mail delivered on site. It was noted that the reason for going to the PO Box was due to issues with vandalism and theft. It was left as is.
6. Fire Department training pay and mileage reimbursement for 2024 was paid in February.
7. Electrical concerns were voiced and an electrician will be hire to fix the problem to ensure no one is hurt. Carl was going to change the filter in the diesel barrel and it was “HOT”. Carl did other work on plumbing.
8. Treasurer’s Report:
9. Starting balance tonight: $246,577.94
10. Spent tonight: $26,817.44
11. Balance tonight: $219,760.50
12. This month last year February 8th, 2024 $299,530.20
13. Other: David Vanderzee stated that the end of his road (26) (to the shed) was designated as a township road according to the Winona country. He would prefer to have it designated as a private road and do the upkeep himself to avoid any conflicts with the owner of land located behind him, as that landowner might decide to start going through his property to access his land even though this has not been done so in the past. He just wants to avoid conflict should the issue arise. Or at least a dead end sign.

Motion to Adjourn - Motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:15 p.m. by Larry Moldenhauer and seconded by Richard Johnson; approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Klawiter 02/13/2025

Approved by:

Vice Chairman Larry Moldenhauer Date

Witnessed:

Kathy Klawiter, Clerk Date