#  New Hartford Township

# MINUTES

# for the Monthly Meeting

# July 10th, 2025, 7:00pm

# New Hartford Town Hall

**Attendance**

Supervisors: Doug Stavenau, Richard Johnson, Larry Moldenhauer

Clerk: Kathy Klawiter

Dep. Clerk: Lori Moor

Treasurer: Michael Moor

Maintenance:

Fire Chief:

Guests: Emma Iremonger, James Gross, Hunter Gross, Emily Gross, Ed Walsh, Keith Olson, Justin Johnson

Meeting called to order by Supervisor Doug Stavenau at 7:00pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes for the regular meeting, June 12th, 2025, were presented by Clerk, Kathy Klawiter. Amend to update the date on the minutes to June, not May. Tyler Sebo is out mowing ditches in the township, already mowed 3 days. Advised the rental agreement and employee paperwork is signed and the tractor is on the townships insurance. Motioned by Doug Stavenau, seconded by Richard Johnson. Approved.

**Public Comment:**

1. Ed Walsh: Thanked the board for new signs and the mowing that is being completed.
2. Keith Olson: Inquired on the tree cutting lawsuit and asked if OSHA requested anything further of the township. Kathy stated she answered OSHA’s questions and advised that we will not being doing any tree trimming alone and there will be more education No formal preventative action was requested from OSHA. At this time, we are going to be going forward with contractor. Our maintenance is picking up along the roads. At this time we have contacted a few contractors and if the services are needed, it will be case by case. If we need the service, make the regular notification, law enforcement, township supervisor. They will make the call to a tree service, the fire dept is equipped to make the necessary work to get the truck through.

 Justin Johnson Acknowledgement form: Requested a conditional use permit. Opening up a cannabis farm and has been in the pilot program in Minnesota for the past 5 years. One of the first farms granted licensed to grow cannabis in Minnesota. Winona County has a planning commission report and has his full plan and so far everything has been approved. Worked with a hydrologist to make sure there is no contamination to water or wildlife. 5k sq pole barn, 1200 sqft horse arena. He would use 3500-4kof the indoor pole barn in the future. Applied for the license to grow ½ acre outdoors and is a qualified applicant. Requires it be fully secured fencing, driveway fencing and all security requirements in MN. 6 ft industrial chain length security fencing and has to have cameras on top facing into the ½ acre. No cameras facing outward. Advised Justin to meet the neighbors to help this transition going further. Justin answered questions regarding to future plans. Max acres would be 3 acres. No desire to do this at this time. Due to land trust, he is not able to put a house up, but he has been approved for a camper. He will be on premise 24/7. Security coverage is 24 hours a day. Has never had a break in or needed to call for police service. The plants are not meant to go to seed. Is not aware of any trails near the back of his property. Would only have a max of 3 employees during the harvest season, would only be himself the rest of the time. No retail location yet, but if would be in the city of Winona or La Crescent, not on the property. He does not foresee any additional traffic on the county roadway. The Chairperson looked over the documents from Justin. Doug made a motion to acknowledge, but we are not in support of due to lack of familiarity and information regarding the conditional use permit. Larry seconded. Approved.

Fire Department Report

Fire Chief Gerhke was not present at meeting, but had a typed report ready that Kathy read during the meeting. See Attached. Below reference the number to the Chief’s report.

 2. Invoice was received for the cutter and spreader to be fixed.

 3. FF1 & FF2 classes have started.

 6. Sept 22, 6pm CPR recertification training. We will need a class size number and if any board members would like to attend.

 7. Compeer Grant opens 8/1 and closes 8/31. Emma I. is working on this grant to get the items listed. The board requested to get an itemized list if this grant does not get approved or fulfill the needs so the board has a list of the expenditures to authorize it to proceed with getting this taken care of. It was discussed the steps needed to take once a grant was approved. This was discussed as a previous grant was supposed to be 50/50 or a sharing grant, but then it became a 50/50 up to a certain dollar amount and at that point the board needs to be notified and brought to the meeting for authorizing the acceptance of the grant and then the dollar amount to spend be motioned by the board and approved.

 9. No invoice from Pomp’s Tire yet. Rear tires will need to be replaced soon. Asking Fire department to get quotes/estimates for the repairs.

 10. Pagers needs checking/repairs. The board will have the fire chief get estimates for these repairs.

 11. firehouse sub: trailer and ATV we will need to discuss this if the grant was gifted. There are a wide variety of atv/trailers. This will need to be brought up at a future meeting.

 13. This invoice will be coming soon.

Invoice for graphics on the fire truck: Doug called and got the more line item details on the invoice. Total amount $3500. Doug motioned to approve to turn invoice back over to the fire department to graphic the truck. Larry seconded. Approved.

It was brought up to make sure that we are bringing all expenses prior to it being a “need” vs a “want”. Also we can’t be calling one board member to get approval for an item that is not a need to get fixed to be road worthy. Kathy had the year to date for 2025 expenses for the fire department available. Local government aid is not a set final amount. It’s just about the use of the funds and how we procedurely and lawfully apply the funds.

Road Report: Carl is busier than ever and we need to look at getting someone hired. We will get the job posted after Kathy and Doug get the job description completed and what will all be required/requested. Carl is using his own equipment. We will need to get a contract together, similar to the tractor contract, for Carl.

The plow truck is currently at DeBauche, we have spent some money at P & T Welding, biggest expense is oil cooler and some little miscellaneous. P & T is already paid for. Estimate for DeBauche is approximately $3-$4,000. Everything has been approved at previous meetings.

Carl has been cleaning out culverts. Tyler Sebo was discussing the fall mowing. Sumac is something that we need to look at how we are going to get rid of. Kathy received an email from a company that would like to quote the township to spray. This is something that needs to be discussed further as there is a lot of controversial thoughts on spraying.

There is no word on seal coating. Did want to discuss with other homeowners to see if they wanted to contact Scott’s for any private work down since they are in the area.

Doug will contact the landowners, Brown’s, regarding the sign placement for the sign that matches Charlie boy hill.

Hoping to have a few trees down along the township roads prior to the seal coating getting done. Wants to look further into this with quotes and then look at the liability and township laws.

**Old Business**: Kathy – There are 4 possibly 5 bills that are still coming in to be paid. Kwik Trip, Xcel, Cornerstone for mowing, MiEnergy, we need to check with Kate Reece to see if Kate cleaned. Kathy will try again and get ahold of her to see if she did clean.

Sign outside the building. Single sided, nothing too bright, possibly with a timer, wireless. La Crosse sign company, no bid, have the best warranty and best service work. Online is basically get what you pay for. 3x5’ out by the flag pole, hose cart would stay where it is, landscaping would be improved. One is $3,794 delivered the second option is $1,759. Installation for running wiring, $2,925. With everything included and leaving room for incidentals, estimated cost would be $10,000. There will always be power to the sign, we can advertise meetings, elections, job openings. Doug made a motion to approve the electric and the $3,794 sign with incidentals not to exceed $2,000 without talking to the board. Electrical is only to the board, not plugged. Larry seconded. Approved.

**New Business:**

Kathy and Lori are working on flow charts for the process on grants and speeding. We are keeping it simple and easy. No issues with invoices being emailed to Kathy. Tuesday cut off of the meeting week is working great!

**Clerk Report**:

The Fire department received a thank you for your support and participation fr the funeral of the La Crescent assistant fire chief Terry Meyer. Emma posted it upstairs by the fire department.

Memorial Golf Tournament 8/9/25 was mentioned with the cost per person and per team. This year’s proceeds with go to the Minnesota City and Altura’s fire department. Kathy has the registration form. In the past, we have attended, just not recently.

MN Association of Township meeting notice: We are invited to attend our MAT one district meeting. Good way to learn new things and keep updated on current policies. Meeting is 8-5-2025, 5pm at Wykoff Commons in Wykoff, MN. Kathy is thinking about going.

* Treasurer’s report:
	+ Starting balance tonight: $313,232.52
	+ Spent tonight: $29,889.47
	+ Balance tonight: $283,343.05
	+ This month last year: $328,719.54 (July 11th, 2024)

Mike suggested taking new photos of the Fire Department for the township website. Doug will reach out to the fire department to see if they are interested in doing this and get some with the new truck.

Motion to adjourn at 8:28pm, motioned by Doug, seconded by Rich; all approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Deputy Clerk Lori Moor

Approved by:

Chairman Doug Stavenau

Witnessed:

Clerk Kathy Klawiter Date: