# New Hartford Township

# MINUTES

# for the Monthly Meeting

# May 8th, 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: Cody Gehrke

Guests: Caroline van Schaik, Ed Walsh, Emma Iremonger, James Gross, Joe Baumgartner, Shelly Soper, Andy Pretasky, Jerris Heyer

Meeting called to order by Supervisor Doug Stavenau at 7:01pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes for the regular meeting, April 10th, 2025, were read by Clerk, Kathy Klawiter. Motioned by Doug Stavenau and seconded by Larry Moldenhauer. All approved.

Road review minutes were read by Kathy, questions regarding dust control on certain roadways, this was tabled until later in the meeting. With the addition to note the road review takes approximately 3 – 4 hours to complete, the Motion to approve the road review minutes by Doug, seconded by Richard. All approved.

**Public Comment**

1. Shelly Soper – build a house on current property, sell some of the parcel with current home on to son. Kathy Klawiter has copy of site plans. Doug motioned to accept with no issues, Rich seconded. Approved.
2. Andy Pretasky – brought paperwork from the County to build a new home on a site with no current structures. Copy of county paperwork was sent to Kathy. Doug motioned to accept with no issues, Rich seconded. Approved
3. James Gross – to put 54 foot shed farm building. Doug motioned to accept with no issues, Rich seconded. Approved. Photo copy was given to Kathy.
4. Caroline van Schaik questioned pay raise for the Clerk position from the April meeting. She noted she had not heard the roll call to change the rate of pay and requested the board to talk louder. Advised it was still on the recording if Caroline wanted to review, pay is what was approved at the reorganization meeting.
5. Kathy Klawitter introduced Lori Moor as the new Deputy Clerk. The discussion was made who could appoint the Deputy Clerk position, Mike Moor confirmed the Clerk can appoint who they would like as their deputy. Doug discussed the wage and the job duties for the deputy clerk position. Motion by Doug to set deputy clerk wage to $25/hour, seconded by Larry. Approved.

**Public comment was closed at 7:37pm.**

**Fire Department Report** – Fire Chief Cody Gerhke

1. Fred Moldenhauer, from Houston, built a hose drying rake.
2. New Engine was discussed. The estimate from McQueen’s on the switch panels went from $3,000 to $8,000. Opted to only have pump testing and valve repair, wiring for the rear lights and not the switch panels.
3. New truck has already had 15 runs, with full crew.
4. Joe Vanderzee – Little Dutch Repair in Nodine, will be doing the oil changes and inspections.
5. Bill S. and Cody are working with McQueens on the new engine.
6. 2 new members, totaling 6 new members for 2025.
7. Nodine FD to host Fire 1 and Fire 2 school in July. Last 2 weekends in September will test out in Nodine in the parking lot.
8. **EMT Notes:** CPR recertification on 5/31 at Pickwick, EMR recertification is online
9. Invoice for an automatic BP cuff, O2 tank regulator washers, and glucometer
10. Borkowski’s (Winona) will be donating another car for training.
11. The 2 new members, Brooke and Austin, borrowing gear from Ridgeway, Nodine doesn’t have their sizes, need a plan to purchase new gear. Cody will work with the budget given for the uniforms. Costs approximately $4,600/ person, plus pagers when necessary. Uniforms have a 10 year shelf life. Deadline for the new members to be fully outfitted, prior to Fire 2 and Fire 2 classes. Discussion of the FD bylaws require a 2 year commitment from the new members, if someone does leave prior to the 2 years, the township could bill the person for reimbursement of the uniform.
12. Kathy wants to get a budget set for the year for the FD and EMT’s. Kathy explained the need for receipts, why a budget is needed, and what the township is asking from the FD chief. Kathy & Cody will get together to go over numbers/budget.
13. 10 new helmets needed. They will be expiring soon.
14. New Electronic signboard (size 65 x 33) will be for fire dept and township use. It will be LED lights. Amazon cost with a discount - $1,600. La Crosse Sign - $18,000. Cody knows a MN license electrician for electrical work. Discussed sign location, no change to the current hose cart. Cody checking with county to verify there is no approval needed to put the sign up. Completion preferred by 4th of July parade if approved. Not approved tonight, get community input on this. Motion by Doug to continue to explore this option and get firmer numbers or invoices, and get community input to proceed with getting the sign to be brought to June’s meeting. Larry seconded. Approved.
    1. Kathy will post on the township website regarding the new sign.
15. Truck lettering – need ½ down, $1,500 to start with the letter company from St. Charles. He will come down and do the work at the fire station total of $2,600 to $3,000 was mentioned at the April meeting, but not voted on or approved at April or May meeting. This needs approval before the invoice can be paid.

**Road Maintenance**

1. Ed proposed a gift to the township for Lost Valley Dr. to finish seal coating the remaining portion. Scott’s Seal Coating quote is $16,170.00 to complete seal coat, oil prices are significantly down right now. Ed’s previous gift he offered was discussed, Ed talked with his neighbors to help cover the cost with the recommendation from a chairman to see about 50% of the total cost to finish seal coating Lost Valley Dr. New proposal is - pay 1/2; Ed is to pay 1/3 of the 1/2 and the other two neighbors will each pay 1/6 of ½ each of the remaining 1/2. The current seal coat fund is currently $13,000. Doug wants to make note the township will no longer road trip the grader, buy rock, and no longer have the cost of maintenance the seal coating. Doug motions to move forward to accept the gift and the Scott’s seal coating quote at $16,170.00 at the 50%, $8,085.00, with the stipulation for the residents to only pay 50% of the Scott’s seal coating, township to pay the other ½ and all the prep work. No additional bids are needed as project will be under $25,000. Doug will be the representative with Scott’s Seal Coating. The residents will pay the gift to the township, the township will pay the invoice from Scott’s. Will advise Ed when the invoice is available. No ditch work or culverts are needed. The prep work will be around $1,000. Resolution to accept gift for Lost Valley Dr. to have the seal coating complete and meet up with the current seal coated road. Rich seconded. Doug motioned for the township to cover the remaining 50% of seal coating plus all prep work, Rich seconded. Approved.
2. Carl worked on new road signs and has removed old Rural Route signs, they all sold for $95.
3. Doug requests the township to place a new sign, similar to County Rd 3 sign, by Dakota Valley Rd, cost approx. $300, County has not responded, this is information at this time only.
4. As needed new culverts were addressed on Coyote Dr. and Heusman Ridge.
5. Forester Hill needs new sign, County has been contacted, no confirmation from County has been received.
6. Discussion regarding residents that are anti-chloride on roads- no plans for 2025 at this time unless the board feels it needs to be addressed at future meeting.
7. Discussion about gravel bids- will not do this year. Spot rock, not blanket rock for 2025. Doug revisited the 2024 gravel expense of $60k. Blanket rock only for 2025, this will help to save money when revisited in 2026. 1 year proposal only. Motion made by Doug, seconded by Larry. Approved
8. Scott’s Seal Coating bid $62,720 to finish Dakota Valley Hill Rd covering 4,000ft. This is a low overall quote for this section. Need decision by August. This would reduce the expense of rock overtime, but not grader time on the roadway. Motion by Rich to leave open for next meeting. Seconded by Larry. Approved.
9. Rose Hill Drive – was vacated and now is all grass.

**Old Business**

* Motion made by Doug Stavenau to approve claims paid tonight and outstanding claims, including Xcel Energy, MiEnergy, and Kwik Trip. Motion was seconded by Larry. Approved.
* Tree Service is needed. Motion by Doug to post on both boards, Kwik Trip, and in newspaper. Seconded by Rich. Approved
* Jerris Heyer questioned Houston Counties covering the roads with Chloride.
* Kate Reece will be done cleaning in June. She will go over duties with Kathy and cleaning will go to every other month.
* Computers: new computers for the clerks and deputy clerk. Doug motioned up to $2,500 for two township computers. Rich seconded. Approved.
* Discussion about two open bills/invoice – Funeral flowers and retirement cake. Will call state auditors/county auditors to see what is permissible and what the state allows. This will be discussed that the next meeting.
* Award pins will continue to be part of the EMT and FD uniforms.

**New Business**

* Clerk’s report
* New Locks & Keys for town hall
* Treasurer’s report:
  + Starting balance tonight: $205,394.25
  + Spent tonight: $17,761.59
  + Balance tonight: $187,632.66
  + This month last year: $280,379.31 (May 9th, 2024)

Motion to adjourn at 9:39pm, motioned by Rich, seconded by Doug; all approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Deputy Clerk Lori Moor

Approved by:

Chairman Doug Stavenau

Witnessed:

Clerk Kathy Klawiter Date: