#  New Hartford Township

# MINUTES

# for the Monthly Meeting

# August 14th, 2025, 7:00pm

# New Hartford Town Hall

**Attendance**

Supervisors: Doug Stavenau, Richard Johnson, Larry Moldenhauer

Clerk: Kathy Klawiter

Treasurer: Michael Moor

Maintenance:

Fire Chief: Cody Gerhke

Guests: Emma Iremonger, Caroline Van Schaik, Amy Gerhke, Lisa Radke, Jerris Heyer

Meeting called to order by Supervisor Doug Stavenau at 7:04pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Clerk Kathy Klawiter, read last month’s meeting minutes. Fire Chief Cody Gerhke made a correction that to the grants. None of the 8 grants the Fire department is applying for are 50/50, they are all 100%. Supervisor Doug Stavenau confirmed the new road sign by New Hartford Road is up. The new electronic sign has arrived, and we are waiting for Doug and Carl to get put up. Spelling correction on the flow charts; they are for the process of grants and spending. Confirmed the township cannot pay for the Memorial Golf Tournament. Doug made a motion to approve the minutes with the spelling corrections, Rich seconded. Approved with corrections.

**Public Comment:**

Bob Heyer: He reminded the Board that last year he wanted to get a conditional use permit to build on Sunnyside Road, on his father’s property. Due to personal reasons and delays it was put off. Now to build he must get 3 variances approved. 1. So many feet from a feed lot, with Steve Weiser’s current head of cattle (50), it will need to be 500 ft. Mr. Weiser states he has 100 head of cattle, making it a 1000 feet. There is not a spot on the property to build that allows for the 1000 ft. 2. Located on class 2 soil. There is nowhere else to build on the property. It is all classified as class 2 soil. 3. Third split of the original property of less than 5 acres. His Dad’s property only has outbuildings, no other home is there. Everyone back there is family, except the Weiser’s. Bob Heyer was asked by the County to come to the Board and ask again for their permission to build on that property, including these 3 variances. Weiser doesn’t like the idea of this property being built on so close to his feedlot, but it doesn’t meet the 1000 ft requirement on the other side of the property. This building would make a 1 acre loss of tillable property. Mr. Heyer presented the board with documents regarding the variances. Larry made a motion to support the proposal with the three variances, Doug seconded. Approved. Bob Heyer left a photo copy of the paperwork from Bob Heyer.

Fire Department Report:

Fire Chief Cody Gerhke presented the fire department report. There are 8 grants that have been applied for. 1. Leerie Grant for $21,000 for a thermal camera, extra gear lockers, brush truck pump, ground monitor. 2. OSHA Grant, through the state. $7,800, for gear washer, we currently don’t have one. 3. Compeer Grant: $3,200 for 8 EMS bags, cutter and spreader mount for the jaws for the engine, new suction device for the engine, 100 ft large diameter hose. 4. Mathy Grant: they just got this. For $24k-$25k for 7 sets of turnout gear. 5. Good Neighbor Grant that was for new fire helmets. This one was denied and the fire department added the helmets to the Leerie Grant. 6. Fire Fighters Foundation Grant: to cover the boots to go with the new turnout gear, $2200. All these grants are 50/50. They are 100% fully funded. DNR grant is a 50/50 grant and the fire department may apply depending on what the fire department receives on the rest of the grants. The AFG Grant is also a 50/50 match grant. No items have been ordered yet, due to no grants have been approved. Adam Zimmerman will come up and get the measurements for the turnout gear, then once the grant is approved, it will take 6-8 weeks to receive them. The grants are for the specific amount that is needed to order the gear. The fire department is still waiting to hear back on the grants. We did get selected for the Mathy Grant. Next meeting Cody will bring to the amount of the Mathy Grant to the board. 7. Firehouse Sub Grant: This is for a 5 x 10 aluminum trailer, ATV, and the grant would be for approximately $30-$40k. Doug asked the chief to get new pictures of the fire department with the new truck once the graphics are on the truck.

Cody won a bid on brand new fire nozzles. Cody donated them to the department. Doug said there have been a couple of donations regarding the outstanding invoices for flowers and a cake, from a few months ago, the board is working on getting these taken care of. The cake and flowers, per Chief Cody, were not voted on at any meeting to have them be paid. Flowers $89.66, Cake $60. There is still about $100 outstanding. Cody will bring this to the fire department meeting. Pera is still at a standstill. Amy is currently locked out of Pera and Cody is working on getting her back on for her to be able to gain access to have the new members added and to help gain access to this account. Cody confirmed all amazon packages are sent to Cody’s address. It is locked and there are cameras preventing any of the public from gaining access to the packages.

Cody brought up locks on the doors. He is wondering why the outside door by the fire station entrance be open at all times. The door into the fire station itself and the downstairs is locked at all times. Cody is inquiring as to why all the doors can’t be locked again. Kathy brought up looking at new locks for all the doors due to many keys out in the public. Doug suggests switching to locks with a keypad and they can be changed when necessary.

Road Report:

Scott’s is now hoping to be here by September.

Mr. Brown, allowed us to put the new sign where the old Stremcha Orchard’s sign was. We are looking to see if we can move it off a little so it is not on Mr. Brown’s property anymore.

Apenhorst, a new contractor, has a boom saw, dump box and 2 boxes that he can go straight up in the air on the road and take care of any overhanging tree limbs. Since he is new, the township can only contract him in increments of 8 hours. Doug made a motion to see if he can start at the top of Dakota Valley Drive and go as far 8 hours of work can take him this month prior to Scott’s stsrting the seal coating, for $2,080. Rich seconded. Approved.

City of La Crescent is having a bike race, they are elite bicyclists. They will be using Forester Hill. It’s 110 miles, ESPN is going to be covering the race and they are expecting approx. 1k to 1.5k bicyclists. The fire department was asked to assist with the aid stations. The fire department is outing out, but the department will provide the minimum that we would provide 365/days a year. If a call comes in, the department will respond. Houston County did not communicate very well regarding this race. Cody advised that the FD and the EMS would/will not be compensated for their time at the aid stations. EMS is not able to bill for services, but the fire department can and Cody will if permitted. This race is generating revenue, but the fire department and EMS were not asked prior to the race being set if they would be willing to order have the man power to assist with an aid station.

Doug brought up road spraying. He is advising that since there are some township members that don’t want spray on their roads, or on the weeds, to get signs posted.

Duane Drive has a low spot that has water that does not drain properly as the road has settled over the years. Now the house to the east is in a low spot where the road is settling and there is a wheel rut there and the waterway is now going past the culvert and flowing down his driveway and down his foundation, into hid egress window. He has already spend a significant amount of his own money to fix his foundation and is asking to see about getting the waterway fixed. This also opens up the possibility for a liability claim if we do not get this taken care of in a timely manner. Doug suggested 3 different things. 1. Utilize Carl and see about redirecting the waterway ourselves. 2. Gravel the low spot and leave it sit until Scott’s or another seal coating company comes back through and then repair it. 3. Klatch comes out and make a permanent repair that will cost approximately $9,000. With Klatch, we would get 3 inches of blacktop covering a larger portion to correct the problem. Doug motioned to approve the patch with Klatch to repair the roadway, from the center line to the low point, making this a permanent fix. Seconded by Rich. Approved.

**Old Business**:

1. Need to approve any late bills. Mi Energy, Winona post – ad for the maintenance position, Hokah Oil Contract.
* Kathy advised that there were 3 applicants for the position. The ad will run 3 more times. Doug made a motion to approve the bills to be paid. Larry seconded. Approved.
1. Electronic sign board: electrical service is approx. $3,000 and it ended up being more than the sign. The sign has a timer and a photo sensor with the sign. Timer will have the sign turn off at night. Carl donated 2 of the posts. Total is approximately $4,800.
2. Locks on building: Doug is going to obtain estimates. Will come back to in September.
3. Willie Erdmann update: He will be meeting with another doctor at the beginning of September. This doctor will give a better look on the timeline of his return. Willie is doing well!
4. Hokah Co-op oil: Contract was received. It needs to be back by Sept. 19th. Doug made a motion to sign the contract. Richard seconded. Approved. Mike advised the last 2 years we have contracted $1500.
5. Cody clarified the bill that was put on the fire department budget needed to be reassigned back to the Township budget. Kathy made these changes.
6. Hall Maintenance position: maybe not hire someone at this time to replace Kate since we are not renting the hall out. Lori will try out the cleaning, but does not want the responsibility to check on the heat/fuel. Cody will take care of the upstairs.
7. Maintenance position: Kathy and Lori will meet with Doug to get the job description completed.
8. Receiving a bill from Carl for the use of his tractor. Doug advised that Carl is using his tractor due to having a more compact size. Doug will get a lease contract for Carl to sign.

**New Business:**

1. Flow charts are ready to be discussed. Board decided to wait until the next meeting and they were given copies of them to review.
2. Kathy received a notification that there will be a meeting on 8/25 to consider a petition with Beverly Dulek and GSS Inc. for a conditional use permit for another cell phone tower. No other documents have been received. This will be located on County Road 101. We have photo of where it will be located. Doug is going to reach out to Ms Dulek regarding this.
3. Mike asked about the Hall Maintenance job description. Kathy went over what she already has put together.

Treasurer’s report:

* + Starting balance tonight: $285,698.63
	+ Spent tonight: $33,890.87
	+ Balance tonight: $251,807.76
	+ This month last year: $322,494.00 (August 8th, 2024)

Doug asked if there is any other discussion prior adjourning the meeting.

Caroline asked about previous maintenance person(s) were using their own equipment, is the township liable for repairs if needed. Advised there is a lease agreement that will be in place.

Lisa Radke questioned taking care of the downed trees themselves. Doug advised that it is appreciated, but if there are only able to move things to the side of the road, please contact a Board member so we can get someone else in there to take care of the remainder of the debris.

Motion to adjourn at 8:51pm, motioned by Doug, seconded by Larry; all approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Deputy Clerk Lori Moor

Approved by:

Chairman Doug Stavenau

Witnessed:

Clerk Kathy Klawiter Date: