

**HASTINGS CHARTER TOWNSHIP**  
**Minutes of the December 10, 2024**  
**Regular Board Meeting**

Call to Order - Pledge to the Flag: 6:34 pm by Supervisor Partridge

Roll Call: Supervisor J. Partridge, Clerk D. Olson, Treasurer J. Phillips. Trustees D. Eichholz, A. Holtrust, B. Scheck and W. Wetzel.

Also Present: 4 guests

Introduction of Newly Elected Board Members

Don Eichholz, Bruce Scheck and Amber Holtrust – commented on their respective background, experience, and vision as a member of the Board

Supervisor’s welcome: encouraged general input, explained meeting protocol for members and reminded public of comment guidelines

Public Comment

Sarah Vandenburg, new County Clerk – introduced herself to Board, is a township resident

Consent Agenda: Amendment added to adjust 2024 budget. Motion made by Trustee Wetzel and seconded by Trustee Eichholz, to accept the amended agenda, to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2024 regular meeting and Fire Department report. No Library report this month. Motion carried.

County Commissioner – R. Teunessen

Report on COA building project, insulin lawsuit, county energy ordinance resolution & upcoming concert.

Previous Business:

1. BIRCH fire truck – Supervisor Partridge reported 1997 truck won’t last as hoped, structurally & functionally, per code. BIRCH will need to finance \$400K, will receive \$15,000 for old trade-in. Township has budgeted \$145,000 for the 2025 fire budget but will need to increase to \$155,000, for the truck replacement. To be addressed in Budget Hearing.
2. 2025 Budget corrections - Supervisor Partridge discussed increasing next budget for web design improvements and pay increases for non-elected positions. To be addressed in Budget Hearing.

Closing of Regular meeting for Budget Hearing

Motion by Trustee Holtrust to close the regular meeting at 7:25 pm, seconded by Trustee Eichholz; motion carried. Motion by Trustee Wetzel to opening the 2025 budget hearing, seconded by Trustee Scheck, motion carried.

Budget Hearing

1. Supervisor Partridge proposed amending 2025 General Fund fire budget from \$145,000 to \$190,000 – this to comprehend both the new/replacement fire truck and anticipated, potential ambulance service equipment expenses. Also, amendment to the General Fund Other Services budget from \$2,500 to \$6,500 to address Township website redesign. Motion by Trustee Holtrust to accept amendments to 2025 budget, seconded by Clerk. Motion Carried by roll call vote – 7 ayes, 0 nays.
2. No changes to the proposed 2025 Special Assessment Funds; motion by Trustee Wetzel to accept the budget, seconded by Trustee Holtrust. Motion carried by roll call vote – 7 ayes, 0 nays.
3. Supervisor Partridge proposed including in the Township Salary budget an hourly rate of \$25.74 for a Deputy Supervisor, as needed; would be the same rate as the Deputy Clerk and Deputy Treasurer. Motion by Trustee Wetzel and seconded by Trustee Holtrust to accept the amendments to the 2025 Township Salary budget. Motion carried by roll call vote – 7 ayes, 0 nays.

Motion by Trustee Holtrust to close budget hearing at 7:43 pm, seconded by Trustee Scheck; motion carried. Motion by Trustee Eichholz to re-open regular meeting, seconded by Trustee Wetzel, motion carried.

New Business:

1. Township monthly meeting dates for 2025. Motion by Trustee Holtrust to accept schedule of dates, continuing regular meetings at 6:30 P.M. on the second Tuesdays of the month. Seconded by Trustee Eichholz. Motion carried.
2. Board of Review (BOR) members – Supervisor reported of experience and reliability of current BOR members: Krista Bies, John Lenz and Mike Smith. Motion by Trustee Wetzel to continue the appointment of these three to the BOR. Seconded by Trustee Holtrust. Motion carried.
3. Cemetery pauper’s plot – discussion regarding possibility of allocating a cemetery plot for deceased resident of The Manor, one with no funding or family. Since the person in question lived previously in Irving Township, Clerk reported that The Manor would pursue that township first. Motion by Supervisor Partridge to allow a space for pauper plot usage, seconded by Trustee Holtrust. Motion carried by roll call – 7 ayes, 0 nays.
4. Auditor change – Rehmann (formerly, Walker, Fluke & Sheldon) discontinued township services, but recommended two other companies. Based on their respective quotes, Supervisor Partridge made the motion to approve Siegfried Crandall, PC as new auditor. Motion seconded by Trustee Holtrust. Motion carried by roll call – 7 ayes, 0 nays.
5. 2024 Budget amendments – Clerk Olson requested the following changes to current budget: Elections increased by \$2,500, Street Lighting increased by \$100, Assessor increased by \$2,000, Fire Services **decreased** by \$20,000. Trustee Holtrust motioned to approve 2024 budget changes as requested, seconded by Trustee Scheck. Motion carried by roll call vote – 7 ayes, 0 nays.

Warrants presented for payment- Motion by Trustee Wetzel and seconded by Trustee Holtrust to approve the warrants totaling \$18,462.47 Motion carried by roll call vote – 7 ayes, 0 nays.

Dept. Reports:

\*\*Treasurer’s Report: Motion by Trustee Wetzel with second by Trustee Holtrust to accept the Treasurers report as presented. Motion carried by roll call vote – 7 ayes, 0 nays.

\*\* Clerk’s Report: mentioned letter from new county enforcement officer Chris Mennell and from resigning library representative Chloe Lewis and card from former elections worker Janet Neil

\*\*Supervisor Report: discussed opening meetings with prayer, 2025 objectives for office remodeling and recycling program. Requested creation of Board committees, appointment of Trustee Scheck as Deputy Supervisor as well as reappointment as Township representative to BIRCH fire board. Motion by Trustee Holtrust to accept Supervisor requests, seconded by Trustee Eichholz. Motion carried by roll call vote – 7 ayes, 0 nays. Board members volunteered to committees, as follows: Recycling – Wetzel, Communications – Holtrust, Township Hall – Scheck, Cemetery – Eichholz

Public Comments

None.

Board member comments

Eichholz – looking forward to working together. Scheck – commented on fire report. Holtrust – gratitude to former Supervisor Jim Brown

Adjourn: Motion by Trustee Wetzel, seconded by Trustee Scheck to adjourn. MOTION CARRIED by voice vote, all ayes. Meeting adjourned 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David J. Olson – Clerk

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Clerk

Date \_\_\_\_\_