

**HASTINGS CHARTER TOWNSHIP**  
**Minutes of the March 11, 2025**  
**Regular Board Meeting**

Call to Order: 6:31 pm by Supervisor Jim Partridge  
Opening prayer by Trustee Wetzel and pledge to the flag.

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

Also Present: 6 guests

Public Comment  
None

Consent Agenda: Motion made by Trustee Holtrust to accept meeting agenda, seconded by Trustee Wetzel. Motion carried. Consent Agenda items: minutes of the February 11, 2025 regular meeting, Fire report and Library report. Motion made by Trustee Holtrust to accept all consent agenda items as presented, seconded by Trustee Eichholz; motion carried.

County Commissioner – R. Teunessen  
Gave updates on approvals by Commission of several board appointments.

New Business:

1. MERCY ambulance – Comments by Paul French, retired Gr. Rapids F.D. employee of changes to emergency services in past 20 years. Presentation by Mercy employees Rodney Palmer & Joe Hubener: change of business model, equipment & fuel costs, workers compensation, supply shortages & spectrum of next generation hiring base – all require asking for support by townships for running costs. Current contract expires January 2027. Discussion ensued with Board questions. Additional comments by Hastings Fire Chief Mark Jordan, with discussion regarding knox boxes for businesses. Since the Board had already approved for an increase to the 2025 budget of \$40,000 in December, 2024 for anticipated ambulance service changes, motion was made by Supervisor Partridge and seconded by Trustee Holtrust to authorize the requested \$3,200.00 monthly payment to Mercy through the end of the contract. MOTION CARRIED by roll call vote – 7 ayes, 0 nays.

Unfinished Business

1. Office remodeling. Review of 3 quotes for “Install Only” and “Remove & Install” reception counter / wall. Discussion of matters of security, upkeep, guest processing and efficiency. Motion made by Trustee Holtrust and seconded by Clerk Olson to approve quote by Phillips Residential Design & Construction, in the amount of \$11,905.00, for complete removal & installation. MOTION CARRIED by roll call vote – Scheck, Partridge, Olson, Wetzel ayes, Eichholz nay, Phillips abstained.

New Business (continued):

2. BIRCH agreement. Presented by Trustee Scheck with additional comments by Supervisor Partridge. Motion by Trustee Eichholz and seconded by Trustee Wetzel to accept updates to wording of agreement as proposed. Motion carried.
3. Mill Street gravel application. Supervisor Partridge presented idea of increasing the gravel application to Mill Street, township portion, above Road Commission’s scheduled amount. Discussion regarding commerce, durability, route importance, number of affected home owners. Tabled for future consideration.
4. Cemetery work day. Supervisor Partridge presented possible date of May 10, 2025, for Board participation in cemetery clean up, prior to Memorial Day. Motion carried.

Warrants presented for payment- Motion by Trustee Holtrust and seconded by Trustee Eichholz to approve the warrants totaling \$169,209.51, which includes the 2025 payment to BIRCH Fire Association for \$154,079.00. MOTION CARRIED by roll call vote – 7 ayes, 0 nays.

Dept. Reports:

\*\*Treasurer's Report, including Investment Policy review: Motion by Trustee Wetzel with second by Supervisor Partridge to accept the Treasurers report as presented. MOTION CARRIED by roll call vote – 7 ayes, 0 nays.

\*\* Clerk's Report: New hand-outs from Library Board, including latest financial reports and calendar of upcoming events. Reminder of opening for Township Designee to County Easement Board.

\*\* Supervisor's Report: 911 Board, Road Commission Road Tour – will pursue reserving possible dates to accompany Road Commission staff on township road survey.

Public Comment

Commissioner Bob Teunessen – State Rep. G. Johnsen to hold Townhall meeting Saturday 3/15/25  
Carlton Township Trustee Michelle Duits, commented on interest of Mercy contract discussion.

Board member comments

Clerk Olson commented on the number of Red Flag confiscation orders in first year since passage of law.

Adjourn: Motion by Trustee Wetzel, seconded by Trustee Scheck to adjourn. MOTION CARRIED by voice vote, all ayes.

Meeting adjourned 8:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
David J. Olson – Clerk

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_