

HASTINGS CHARTER TOWNSHIP
Minutes of the April 14, 2026
Regular Board Meeting

Call to Order: 6:30 pm by Supervisor Jim Partridge also leading opening prayer and pledge to the flag.

Roll Call: Supervisor J. Partridge (Board Chair), Clerk D. Olson, Treasurer J. Phillips, Trustees D. Eichholz, B. Scheck and B. Westveer. Trustee W. Wetzel was absent.

Also Present: 13 guests

Meeting Agenda: For the sake of guests present, who were interested in the Indian Hills Drive (IHD) road improvements discussion, per suggestion by the Board Chair, motion made by Clerk Olson, seconded by Trustee Westveer, to move agenda item **Indians Hills special assessment district** immediately before opening Public Comment. Motion carried. Also, per request by the Chairman, motion made by Trustee Westveer, seconded by Clerk Olson, to move agenda items **Life EMS presentation** and **Library Report** before **County Commission Report**. Motion passed.

New Business – Indian Hills Drive

1. Supervisor Partridge informed the board of the circulation of an informal petition, by IHD residents, to repave the roads in the subdivision. He gave a brief summary of initial steps taken by various residents so far, provided a informational handout on public improvements, and mentioned that a resident-led meeting was being organized. Discussion ensued with several residents asking questions, sharing comments and concerns. Residents are in process of collecting signatures.

Public Comment

Barry County resident Gary White addressed issues and activity currently managed at the county level. Mr. White has attended nearly every municipality in the county, during one of their regular meetings, to exhort elected officials to initiate concern and appropriate action for good governance from the bottom up.

Consent Agenda:

Consent Agenda composed of minutes of the March 10, 2026 regular meeting, emergency services reports and Library reports. Motion made by Trustee Eichholz to accept all consent agenda items as presented, seconded by Trustee Westveer; motion carried.

New Business (continued)

2. Life EMS presentation – Field Supervisor Jordan Teitsma. Mrs. Teitsma gave an introduction to her professional training and experience, then to Life EMS and its history and development. She handed out a company profile packet to the board demonstrating Life organizational chart, service area, field of services and equipment available for use. Also shown was Life’s education centre & employee retention program, as well as specific statistics of service in the BIRCH related area. Discussion ensued regarding various services directly available to the township and speculation on projected costs as related to agreement renewal.
3. Library report – Director David Edelman. Mr. Edelman gave an introduction to his professional background and history of coming to Hastings Public Library. He presented to the board the strategic plan for 2026 – 2029, including the library’s purpose & vision, strategic commitments and various goals. Discussion ensued regarding various programs and services tested and considered by the library.

County Commissioner – R. Teunessen

Responded to earlier remarks made in **Public Comment** regarding the resignation of the county Deputy Administrator and jail study. Mentioned public hearing dates on the Meijer store project in Rutland Twp, 425 agreement and on a possible career center at the KCC Fehsenfeld Center.

Unfinished Business

1. Recycling module – no updates to report
2. Cemetery Clean-up – Trustee Eichholz confirmed Clean-up date to be May 16th this year.
3. ADA compliant web design – Trustee Westveer presented overview of plans submitted by Pixelvine, CivicPlus and Inspiration Studio Designs, and their respective quotes. Following discussion, a motion was made by Trustee Eichholz, seconded by Treasurer Phillips, to accept the recommendation by Westveer to approve the proposal submitted by Inspiration Studio Designs. MOTION CARRIED by roll call vote – 6 ayes, 0 nays.

New Business (continued)

4. Cemetery Mapping proposals. Due to the overall length of the meeting, by suggestion of the Board Chair, a motion was made by Trustee Westveer, seconded by Clerk Olson, to table mapping proposals until next meeting. Motion passed.

Warrants presented for payment - Motion by Trustee Eichholz and seconded by Trustee Westveer to approve the warrants totaling \$65,113.81 MOTION CARRIED by roll call vote – 6 ayes, 0 nays.

Department Reports:

- Treasurer’s Report: Motion by Clerk Olson, seconded by Trustee Eichholz to accept the Treasurer’s report as presented. MOTION CARRIED by roll call vote – 6 ayes, 0 nays.
- Clerk’s Report: commented on financial audit just conducted. Presented 1st Quarter “Actual to Budget” report. However, with some line items not correctly allocated, motion was made by Trustee Eichholz, seconded by Treasurer Phillips, to table the Quarterly report until next meeting. Motion passed.
- Supervisor’s Report: Barry Co Central Dispatch letter announcing Doug Peck of Hope Twp was reappointed to position of Township Representative to the 911 Board. Mr. Peck’s acknowledgement of acceptance included with the letter. Upcoming golf outing by the Chamber.

Public Comment

Gary White – follow up to Life EMS presentation, that emergency services was a concern shared across the county. He encouraged transparency and “bottom-up” government.

Board Member Comments

Trustee Eichholz spoke of data center developments and concerns, including manufacturing shifts. He also spoke with a service provider regarding possible repair of cemetery brick archway. Trustees Scheck commented on emergency service calls and the average cost per person for such services in the township. Supervisor Partridge gave update on fire-damaged property and condemned property. Trustee Westveer requested review of Barry County Chamber “Level Up” offer to townships, to be included in next month’s agenda. Also commented on municipal boards, request for review of township lists.

Adjourn: Motion by Trustee Eichholz, seconded by Trustee Scheck. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned 8:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
David J. Olson – Clerk

Approved _____ Clerk

Date _____.