

HASTINGS CHARTER TOWNSHIP
Minutes of the April 8, 2025
Regular Board Meeting

Call to Order: 6:30 pm by Supervisor Jim Partridge
Opening prayer by Trustee Scheck 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

Township constituents from River Road commented on desire for dust control. Discussion ensued regarding cost for individuals. Conclusion to have Supervisor Partridge contact Road Commission regarding possible collaboration of residents to contribute toward more cost-effective purchase and dust control application.

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

County Commissioner – R. Teunessen

Reported on move by Chamber of Commerce, intent to sell some county-owned property, formation of jail committee and body-cams for the sheriff's department.

Unfinished Business

1. Cemetery Day: Trustee Eichholz advised of the change of meeting date from May 10 to May 3, 2025, 9:00 AM – noon, at the township cemetery for the purpose of familiarization and general clean-up / preparation for summer season.
2. Road Tour: Supervisor Partridge confirmed that April 16, 2025, at 10:30 AM, was set for meeting at township hall for the purpose of a road tour with the county road commission.

New Business

1. Broadband, Equity, Access & Deployment (BEAD) Program: This is a federally funded & administered program for high-speed internet infrastructure. Supervisor Partridge explained that the township had been approached by several potential contractors to the project, seeking endorsement. However, the township remaining neutral, simply sent a letter of general endorsement of the project to the Chamber of Commerce, which is promoting the project.
2. Knox Box Ordinance. Supervisor Partridge presented a draft ordinance to require certain businesses in the township to install a Knox box for emergency purposes. Per recommendation of Hastings Fire Chief, businesses would only be required if they had fire suppression system, sprinklers or alarm which would automatically alert Fire and / or ambulance services, and prompting a dispatch. Following discussion and review of the draft, Trustee Holtrust motioned to not approve pursuing the creation of the ordinance, seconded by Clerk Olson. Motion carried.

Warrants presented for payment- Motion by Trustee Wetzel and seconded by Trustee Holtrust to approve the warrants totaling \$18,315.93. MOTION CARRIED by roll call vote – 7 ayes, 0 nays.

Dept. Reports:

****Treasurer's Report:** Included correction of March Report. Motion by Trustee Wetzel with second by Trustee Eichholz to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. MOTION CARRIED by roll call vote – 7 ayes, 0 nays.

** Clerk's Report: Presented report of 1st Quarter expenses.

** Supervisor's Report: Presented Board members with their own township jackets, intended to encourage team spirit. Also proposed the consideration of purchasing a used ambulance to augment emergency services. The idea is based on the possibility of losing Mercy Ambulance service and would have to be a shared expense with other townships and the City of Hastings.

Public Comment

None

Board member comments

Trustee Eichholz appreciated discussion on dust control on gravel roads. Trustee Scheck commented on the good working relationship of BIRCH with the city fire chief. Trustee Wetzel observed that people may tend to complain about ambulance service running costs but that they expect the service. Clerk Olson noted that, while searching township archives for recent audit, the issue of the Spongy Moth resurfaced every decade or so. Trustee Holtrust supported the wisdom behind a backup ambulance and announced upcoming event.

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

Meeting adjourned 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
David J. Olson – Clerk

Approved _____ Clerk

Date _____