

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

Call to Order: 6:30 pm by Supervisor Jim Partridge. Opening prayer and reflection on George Washington speech by Trustee Eichholz, followed by the pledge to the flag.

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

Also Present: 7 guests

Meeting Agenda: Motion made by Trustee Westveer and seconded by Trustee Scheck to accept current agenda. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Brandon Strong – introduction and announcement of campaign for the 78th District seat. Addressed a matter circulating regarding his relationship to Green Light Driving School. Gave the board documentation showing legal organization of the driving school.

Gary White – also distributed to the board documentation of an investigation proceeding regarding the relationship between Mr. Strong and the driving school.

Kaleb Hudson – introduction and announcement of campaign for the 78th District seat. Distributed to the board promotional material and intended legislative agenda, should he gain the seat.

Consent Agenda:

Consent Agenda composed of minutes of the June 9, 2026 regular meeting, emergency services reports and Library reports. Motion made by Trustee Wetzol and seconded by Trustee Westveer to accept all consent agenda items as presented. Motion carried.

County Commissioner – R Teunessen

Discussed the County Commissioner resolution on zoning, in response to recent state legislation. Jail – a Request for Proposal (RFP) in being created to send out to contractors. Gave update on decreasing unfunded liabilities. Mentioned again of Kellogg Community College intending to create a trade center.

Unfinished Business

1. Recycling module – No new information / updates.
2. Cemetery Arch repair – Trustee Eichholz presented the 2 quotes previously given and 1 new. Discussion on the issues of durability, historic value. Motion made by Trustee Wetzol, seconded by Trustee Scheck to accept the proposal submitted by Cabral Construction in the amount of \$5,500.00 MOTION CARRIED by roll call vote – 7 ayes, 0 nays.
3. Computer replacements – Supervisor shared comments and considerations addressed with DELL Technologies rep. New quote for two Dell Pro Laptops, docking stations, wireless accessories \$4,860.46. Still waiting for confirmation by MiDEAL of reactivated membership, in order to benefit from program discounts. Motion made by Supervisor Partridge, seconded by Trustee Scheck, to approve the purchase of proposed laptops, not-to-exceed \$5,000.00 MOTION CARRIED by roll call vote – 7 ayes, 0 nays.

New Business

1. Township Audit – CPA Daniel Veldhuizen of Siegfried Crandall discussed the annual financial audit conducted on the township. Dan discussed the general approach to an audit and reviewed various parts of the whole report. Generally, a good fund balance in regard to liabilities. Reviewed comparative analysis to the previous year, considering the township's net position and its long-term outlook. Discussion followed with board members of projected costs and their effect on various

accounts. Motion made by Trustee Wetzel, seconded by Trustee Westveer, to accept the report as submitted. MOTION CARRIED by roll call vote – 7 ayes, 0 nays.

2. EMS MOU – Supervisor Partridge shared with the board the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) given by the City of Hastings, to the member townships of BIRCH Fire Association. Currently considering offering a 3-year contract, with the possibility of a 3-year extension, to an ambulance service, to include 1 ALS unit (primary) and 1 non-ALS unit (evening add-on). The purpose of the MOU is to be prepared when the contract expires in December with the current service company Life EMS. The City is seeking support by the association members to pursue bids and is asking for a member from each township to be on the committee that will review bids. Motion made by Trustee Wetzel, seconded by Trustee Eichholz, to relay the township's approval to proceed. Motion carried. Motion made by Trustee Westveer, seconded by Clerk Olson, to appoint Supervisor Partridge to the committee. Motion carried.

Warrants presented for payment - Motion by Trustee Wetzel and seconded by Supervisor partridge to approve the warrants totaling \$147,515.51 MOTION CARRIED by roll call vote – 7 ayes, 0 nays.

Department Reports:

- Treasurer's Report: Discussed status of various CD's, with the annual payment to the Road Commission from one just matured. Motion by Supervisor Partridge, seconded by Trustee Scheck to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. MOTION CARRIED by roll call vote – 7 ayes, 0 nays. Treasurer requested that the board pay for the cemetery arch repairs from the Township Improvement Funds (TIF). Motion by Trustee Westveer, seconded by Trustee Wetzel to pay from the TIF, as requested. MOTION CARRIED by roll call vote – 7 ayes, 0 nays.
- Clerk's Report: reviewed status of the budget from the first half of the year.
- Supervisor's Report: new aerial truck purchased by the Hastings Fire Department.
 - A tree-planting grant being offered by Consumers Energy. Discussed costs, terms & conditions included in the offer. Board decided to table the matter for now.
 - Meeting with drone contractor Overhead Media for the cemetery mapping project.
 - Internet communications companies, such as 123.Net and activity occurring in various locales, to provide better internet service.
 - Pursuing a possible “.gov” website, change over from “.com”.
 - Grant given to Charlton Park; township is expected to acknowledge the activity with the Park.
 - State legislature moving to increase regulation on septic systems.
 - Two parcels up for sale near the township hall. Township will not be considering for purchase.
 - Presented lease agreement renewal, John Lenz farming the unused portion of cemetery property. Following discussion, Trustee Wetzel made the motion, seconded by Trustee Scheck to renew the agreement, to equal the sum of the Summer and Winter tax assessment, plus 1% collection fee. MOTION CARRIED by roll call vote – ayes Westveer, Scheck, Olson, Eichholz, Phillips; nays Wetzel, Partridge.
 - Shared information on a property located on Powell Road – was brought to his attention that mining activity is occurring, in an area not zoned for it. Discussion followed with option for Supervisor to bring to Zoning Enforcement.
 - The law firm Fahey Schultz Burzych rendered a clarification: in reference to the recent Special Assessment District (SAD) creation for Indian Hills subdivision, a property's listing did not matter, as long as it was still the same individual who owned both / all parcels in question. Discussion followed on the learning experience of the SAD process.

Public Comment

George Becker of Indian Hills Drive – Described the arrival of an internet cable company, beginning operations in their neighborhood: conversations with construction workers, installing very visible posts in yards, lack of forewarning and attempts to understand total project. Also, Mr. Becker told of trying to figure out who the authorizing entity was and how to give input toward acceptable end results by property owners. Supervisor offered some clarity on the work of Surf Internet in select neighborhoods of the township.

Board Member Comments

- Trustee Eichholz will follow up with the 3 masonry bidders.
- Clerk Olson shared of state legislation affecting political terms, elections processing and state budget changes affecting revenue sharing.
- Trustee Wetzel expressed appreciation for the auditor's report and good bookkeeping that merits the report.
- Trustee Westveer related the details of a class just attended with the County Chamber – they described ways of looking at options for housing in our township, in ways acceptable to local interests.

Adjourn: Motion by Trustee Wetzel, seconded by Trustee Westveer. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
David J. Olson – Clerk

Approved _____ Clerk

Date _____.