

HASTINGS CHARTER TOWNSHIP
Minutes of the August 12, 2025
Regular Board Meeting

Call to Order: 6:30 pm by Supervisor Jim Partridge
Opening prayer by Clerk Olson 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: 3 guests

Public Comment
None

Agendas: Motion made by Trustee Wetzel to accept meeting agenda, seconded by Trustee Holtrust. Motion carried. Consent Agenda composed of minutes of the July 8, 2025 regular meeting, Fire report, 911 report and library report. Motion made by Trustee Holtrust to accept all consent agenda items as presented, seconded by Trustee Eichholz; motion carried. Trustee Scheck commented on Fire Chief's expectation of continued increase in emergency service calls. Trustee Eichholz inquired if Library financial report could be made available each time the Library Board reviewed. Motion carried.

County Commissioner – R. Teuessen

Reported various updates: construction progress on Commission on Aging building, jail studies & planning, Health Dept budget cuts and structural repairs being considered to Hastings City Hall.

Unfinished Business

1. Back up Ambulance – Supervisor Partridge presented adjusted / final invoice from BIRCH Fire Association for recent purchase and outfitting of back up ambulance. Motion made by Supervisor and seconded by Trustee Holtrust to approve payment of \$23,802.35 for township portion of bill to the Association. MOTION CARRIED by roll call vote – 7 ayes, 0 nays.
2. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) – Supervisor Partridge presented draft MOU / Ambulance Service Agreement by BIRCH Association, Mercy Ambulance and Life EMS. MOU lays out terms for Life EMS to take over services currently handled by Mercy, since the latter did not renew state service license. Following discussion, motion made by Trustee Eichholz and seconded by Trustee Scheck to get clarification on MOU / Agreement Line Item No. 4, prior to approving. MOTION CARRIED by roll call vote – 7 ayes, 0 nays.
3. Recycling module – Supervisor Partridge reported sale of several items of furniture no longer used by the Township. Gathered information on possible local recycling of scrap metals and corrugated cardboard, as well as mini grant program offered by the county.
4. DNR Letter – Supervisor Partridge shared letter of follow up to Mr. Rick Graf regarding fishery plans for Thornapple Lake and associated benefits to installing septic systems around the lake.

New Business

1. September Board Meeting – Supervisor Partridge reserved usage of Township Hall at Historic Charlton Park for next monthly meeting.
2. Library disbursement – Treasurer Phillips explained history, starting in 2016, of incentive made available by the state to businesses applying for waivers of personal property tax for maintaining local business. State chose to disburse a portion of revenue, lost by the waiver, back to affected municipalities. It was discovered that a portion of that disbursement was earmarked for the library, but never clarified as such. Treasurer Phillips prepared a report, from state records, showing the accumulated amount due to the library was \$18,097.95. Motion made by Supervisor Partridge and seconded by Trustee Scheck to distribute funds unintentionally withheld from the library. MOTION CARRIED by roll call vote – 7 ayes, 0 nays.

Warrants presented for payment- Motion by Trustee Wetzel and seconded by Trustee Scheck to approve the warrants totaling \$21,327.53 MOTION CARRIED by roll call vote – 7 ayes, 0 nays.

Dept. Reports:

**Treasurer's Report: Motion by Trustee Holtrust, seconded by Trustee Eichholz to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. MOTION CARRIED by roll call vote – 7 ayes, 0 nays.

** Clerk's Report: Updated budget presented, discussed upcoming November ballot for Barry ISD, and recent cemetery violations letter.

** Supervisor's Report: Discussed Open Complaints Report by Zoning Enforcement Officer and updates of Road Commission's gravel roads in the Township this season.

Public Comment

Dana Yarger, Trauma Program Manager commented on the current state of emergency services.

Board member comments

Trustee Eichholz – commented on county economic development looking for municipal partners

Trustee Holtrust – would like local departmental representatives at special meeting, if called, regarding the new agreement switching emergency service over to Life EMS

Adjourn: Motion by Trustee Wetzel, seconded by Interim Chair Scheck to adjourn. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
David J. Olson – Clerk

Approved _____ Clerk

Date September 9, 2025