

HASTINGS CHARTER TOWNSHIP
Minutes of the September 9, 2025
Regular Board Meeting

Call to Order: 6:30 pm by Supervisor Jim Partridge at township hall in historic Charlton Park. Supervisor Partridge also led opening prayer 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

Agendas: Supervisor Partridge requested to add agenda item of County Clerk presentation. Motion made by Trustee Holtrust to accept adjusted meeting agenda, seconded by Trustee Eichholz. Motion carried. Consent Agenda composed of minutes of the August 12, 2025 regular meeting, Fire report, 911 report and library report. Motion made by Trustee Wetzel to accept all consent agenda items as presented, seconded by Trustee Holtrust; motion carried.

County Clerk – S Vandenburg

Presented information regarding petition for Ranked Choice Voting (RCV). Vandenburg detailed risks, complexities, detailed costs of equipment & training, delay of results. Listed states banning or reversing use of RCV and mentioned reported results of voter confusion & systematic errors that had been detected.

County Commissioner – R. Teuessen

Reported various updates: COA building progress, jail planning, Health Dept budget cuts and negotiations for 2026 union contracts.

Unfinished Business

1. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) – Supervisor Partridge presented final version of MOU / Ambulance Service Agreement. Following discussion, Trustee Holtrust motioned to accept final version as written, seconded by Trustee Eichholz. MOTION CARRIED by roll call vote – 7 ayes, 0 nays.
2. Recycling module – Supervisor Partridge mentioned ongoing search / progress toward revitalization of program & recycling unit.

New Business

1. Cemetery foundation – Clerk Olson presented request by family, holding burial rights in Section 5, to have foundation replaced by contractor of their choice, at family's expense. Discussion included need for statement to be signed by family of holding Township harmless and assuming all related expenses. Motion was made by Supervisor Partridge, seconded by Trustee Holtrust to approve the variation with statement included. Motion carried by majority.
2. Parks funding – Supervisor Partridge expressed interest in creating a Parks fund, separate from the General Fund, in support of McKeown Bridge Park and the township building at historic Charlton Park. Based on attorney recommendation letter and financial partnership agreement, drawn up in 2008. Following discussion, subject was tabled for now.

Warrants presented for payment- Motion by Trustee Wetzel and seconded by Clerk Olson to approve the warrants totaling \$57,777.32 MOTION CARRIED by roll call vote – 7 ayes, 0 nays.

Dept. Reports:

****Treasurer's Report:** Motion by Trustee Holtrust, seconded by Trustee Wetzel to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Motion carried.

**** Clerk's Report:** Report on attendance at recent conference sponsored by Bureau of Elections. Clerk also requested volunteers for Elections Commission, to meet next month following regular Board meeting, to approve election workers. Trustee Holtrust and Trustee Wetzel volunteered.

**** Supervisor's Report:** Discussed Barry County Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development Alliance activities and programs. Reported of receiving letter from MI EGLE regarding intent to lay biosolids in location of Northeast part of Township, area of approximately 150 acres.

Public Comment

None

Board member comments

Trustee Eichholz commented on surveillance cameras installed around and utilized by the Village of Middleville. Trustee Scheck gave overview and comments on latest fire report. Trustee Wetzel discussed MTA article regarding FOIA requests in relation to the Township.

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

Meeting adjourned 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
David J. Olson – Clerk

Approved _____ **Clerk**

Date _____