

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

Call to Order: 6:35 pm by Supervisor Jim Partridge, and Trustee Eichholz led opening prayer and pledge to the flag.

Roll Call: Supervisor James Partridge, Clerk David Olson, Treasurer Jenee Phillips, Trustees Amber Holtrust, Don Eichholz, Bruce Scheck and William Wetzel.

Also Present: 3 guests

Public Comment

Eldon Shellenbarger commented on his appreciation of the Board's commitment to the township and handling of affairs.

Agendas: Supervisor Partridge announced that 2025 Final Budget adjustments will be proposed by Clerk removed review of City property transfer fund from agenda for sake of budget meeting; table until next month. Motion made by Trustee Holtrust and seconded by Trustee Scheck to accept meeting agenda as adjusted. Motion carried. Consent Agenda composed of minutes of the November 11, 2025 regular meeting, Fire report, 911 report, Library reports and BC Medical Control Authority. Motion made by Trustee Wetzel to accept all consent agenda items as presented, seconded by Trustee Holtrust; motion carried.

County Commissioner – R. Teunessen

Reported on jail study and engineering quotes.

Unfinished Business

1. 2026 Budget – Motion made by Trustee Wetzel, seconded by Trustee Scheck, to accept the 2026 proposed budget, as presented and discussed in the November 11, 2025 board meeting. MOTION CARRIED by roll call vote – 7 ayes, 0 nays.
2. Recycling program – Supervisor Partridge commented on county recycling coordinator pursuing grant funding for independent collection units at various county sites, including Hastings Charter Township. Possible requirement for cement slab to be added to facilitate such containers.

New Business

1. 2026 Regular Meeting Schedule – Proposed schedule was discussed, maintaining monthly dates & times. Motion made by Trustee Eichholz, seconded by Trustee Holtrust to accept the schedule as presented. Motion carried.
2. Board of Review members – Supervisor Partridge recommended retaining Krista Bies, John Lenz and Mike Smith on the Township Review Board. Motion made by Trustee Holtrust, seconded by Trustee Eichholz to retain all three. Motion carried.
3. West State Street Property Fund reallocation – Supervisor Partridge discussed the property, given by Kathy Woods to the Township, then transferred to the City of Hastings, with the stipulation of maintaining the restriction of use except for park or recreational purposes. The Township has placed all transfer funds from the City into a sub-account toward recreation & culture, now accrued to date \$11,043.76. The Supervisor proposed to create a fund within the General Fund to allow for usage on maintaining McKeown Park and the township building at Historic Charlton Park. Motion made by Trustee Holtrust, seconded by Clerk Olson to accept the proposal. MOTION CARRIED by roll call vote – 7 ayes, 0 nays.
4. Board member opening – Trustee Holtrust advised the Board of her intentions to step down from the role of Trustee, as a potential replacement may be found. Following discussion, the matter was tabled for this meeting.

Warrants presented for payment- Motion by Trustee Holtrust and seconded by Trustee Wetzel to approve the warrants totaling \$16,657.51 MOTION CARRIED by roll call vote – 7 ayes, 0 nays.

Dept. Reports:

**Treasurer's Report: Motion by Trustee Wetzel, 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: As requested by the financial firm Siegfried Crandall PC, proposed the Board retain the firm for the 2025 annual audit. Motion made by Supervisor Partridge, seconded by Trustee Holtrust to retain Siegfried Crandall. Motion carried. Proposed final adjustments to 2025 Budget, as follows:

<u>Reduce</u> Twp Board / Admin account	<u>\$5,750</u>
<u>Reduce</u> Supervisor account	<u>\$3,000</u>
<u>Reduce</u> Clerk account	<u>\$ 700</u>
<u>Reduce</u> Board of Review account	<u>\$1,400</u>
<u>Reduce</u> Treasurer account	<u>\$2,000</u>
<u>Reduce</u> Twp Hall account	<u>\$9,300</u>
<u>Reduce</u> Cemetery account	<u>\$1,400</u>
<u>Reduce</u> Fire / EMS account	<u>\$12,000</u>
<u>Increase</u> Highway/Road account	<u>\$52,000</u>
<u>Reduce</u> Recycling account	<u>\$500</u>
<u>Reduce</u> Planning account	<u>\$500</u>
<u>Reduce</u> Other Services account	<u>\$6,000</u>
<u>Reduce</u> Recreation account	<u>\$1,000</u>

Motion made by Supervisor Partridge, seconded by Trustee Holtrust, to approve proposed changes to the 2025 Budget. MOTION CARRIED by roll call vote – 7 ayes, 0 nays

** Supervisor's Report: Would be absent in January, scheduled the Road Commission presentation for the February meeting and the Chamber of Commerce for March meeting.

Public Comment

Eldon Shellenbarger – inquired about cemetery plots with no activity in many years

Board member comments

Clerk Olson advised of agreement with three other townships for combined future Early Voting (EV) sites. Trustee Wetzel appreciated work of the Clerk's office. Trustee Scheck drew attention to the 92% increase of emergency calls from 1 year ago for the county, and appreciated newsletter on tax bill for educating the populous regarding cost increases. Treasurer Phillips wished all a Merry Christmas. Trustee Eichholz commented on the Isabella County lawsuit and appeal for monetary assistance from other counties.

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

Meeting adjourned 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
David J. Olson – Clerk

Approved _____ Clerk

Date _____